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Dear members,

**Reminders:** we are almost out of used plastic bags and will not be collecting and using them anymore, so make sure you keep a supply of totes and/or bags in your car.

**In the shares:** hope everyone is enjoying the corn. Normally, we portion it out in smaller amounts and can have corn for three weeks, but the heat hit a couple of weeks ago so it ripened up all at once. So the rest of the Honey Treat corn will be picked for this weeks shares. Coming up (maybe next week) Sugar Pearl white corn.

**In the fields:** we just planted our last crop of turnips for harvest in October. From mid-July we have been planting all the fall greens, lettuce, carrots, beets, etc. for harvest in late Sept to the end of the season which is the third week of July. That was over 34,000 transplants, plus close to 10,000 bed feet of carrots and beets that we direct seeded. Everyone is happy to be done with the planting, now on to weeding and thinning. A special thank you should go to our crew members Dang and Neng Hang who somehow will get all those carrots and beets thinned and weeded!

**Coming up: U-Pick Fall greens** generally are open for picking around mid-Sept. **Spaghetti Squash** ( new this year) will be ready in about 2 weeks, so goggle or bing up some recipes!

**Unpleasantness:** Auugh, I hate to write negative things in the newsletters, but..... It has come to my attention, that we have had a number of people (especially on Sundays) out picking things they shouldn't pick. Like the bright orange Kubocho squash (which aren't even ripe yet), tomatoes, corn, etc. I do appreciate members telling me about things they see that aren't right because it lets me know if this is an isolated incident or becoming a real problem. **If it doesn't have a U-Pick sign on it, do not pick it.** and simple. (And our apologies for not getting the signs on the new cilantro/dill crop)! **And adults- please don't pick out of the kids garden.** Lots of members are upset about this.

**Don't assume** that we don't know what we're doing when things are "left" out in the field. The onions and squash and pumpkins are curing in the fields and we will cut them off the vines when it is time (we can tell this by the condition of the stem) Everything will be harvested and distributed to members in as equal a manner as humanly possible. **Tomatoes:** if there are tomatoes on the ground in the hoopouses, there is a reason for that. **According to GAP (healthy food handling practices),** if a tomato falls to the ground when we are picking, we do not put it in the bag. This is a health hazard with soft skinned fruit (also peaches, etc). We cannot let people go in there and pick up those tomatoes – you are putting yourself at risk – lots of things such as field mice, etc running through there at night – get the picture? On soft skinned items, bacteria goes straight through to the inside. Our pickers are trained to thoroughly wash hands and put clean gloves on before picking. Besides there is no U-pick sign anywhere. There is more, but I think I've said enough on this topic.

**The vast majority of our members are extremely conscientious and just plain wonderful!** Sorry to have to bring this all up. But please do continue to tell us of issues you see if you feel it is necessary.

We need to get a handle on this and get rid of members who consistently don't follow the rules, or our open campus is in jeopardy, which would be a shame since that is one of the things that is different about this farm that people enjoy so much.

**A word about GMO – members sometimes ask if we grow Genetically modified crops.** Absolutely not! We also purchase seeds only from companies that have a "no GMO" pledge. I consider GMO's to be the biggest threat to our health and the world's food supply, and economic danger to our farmers, than anything so far. This November, a bill to require products that are GMO or contain GMO to be labeled as such. Please vote yes on this. We deserve the freedom to choose! May write more about that later.