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**Dear Members**

*Reminder: CSA and Fruit share payments due on the 15<sup>th</sup>*

June 18, 2014

Nice to get some **carrots!** We plant the first crop during the first week of April under the covers in some of the hoop houses. Since there is no fungicide on organic seed, it's hard to get them to germinate in really wet soil, but we've been successful with this method as the soil is dryer. This year we tried some beets that way as well, so we were able to plant them about 3 weeks earlier.

**U-pick Kale: we will be roping it off, either this week or next,** so we can spray it with liquid organic fertilizer and let it re-grow so it will be lush again. Please do not pick in any roped off areas, as even though the fertilizer is organic, we don't want you to be eating it! Also, the plants need a certain amount of leaf structure to support new growth, so resting them is necessary.

**Crop report:** well the weather got cool again, so the **basil** is stalled. I expect it will be ready for the u-pick in about 3 weeks. We're stressed trying to get the rest of the **winter squash, pumpkins** planted and row cover put on (which takes nearly as long as planting). Expect to finish tomorrow. Then the final planting of **broccoli** goes in. Remember the heavy rains we had the last of April and the first week of May? Weather reports said that we had our average rainfall for the entire month of May in just three days. It slowed down the growth of the **chard**, with lots of plants just dropping dead (we kept replanting it), the **collards and kale** did not get as big as they usually are, and we had a total crop failure of **Gailon**. Plants were struggling to breath with all that water around their roots they were not getting enough oxygen. So where-ever the soil was a little lower (even a half inch makes a difference!) things did not grow as well. **Summer squash** looks good, but again, plants in the slightly lower areas are half the size of the others. But knowing summer squash, we'll still have plenty. **Peas and onions** are doing fine, as we planted those in some of the dryer areas of the farm. Expect **snap peas** in the harvest next week, **as far as I can tell now.**

**Memberships:** We are a little ahead of where we were last year, but still are not full. So thanks to those of you who spread the word! We had a lot of people stop by saying that a friend told them about the farm. Past members may recall me writing about the dire effect on the budget that happens when we have a lot of members signing on late, like mid-July on. Since we just barely break even on our CSA costs of production, this ends up with us losing money on the CSA portion of the business, since we have to pro-rate the cost, but we don't save any money on the production end. So it's looking better this year, but we need at least 40 more memberships sold soon to break even.

**Bags:** thanks to those who brought some bags for people to use to go u-pick. We have plenty now, so don't need any more for awhile.

**Payments:** please try to get them in before or by the due date. I hate to spend time emailing reminders.

Picture having to do 100 or so emails with individual text – Yuk! If you have to wait for the next payday, go ahead and send it in with a post- date circled.