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Holiday weekend coming up – plan ahead and change your pickup day now if you need to. Remember there is no Sunday pickup option anymore.

Aug 15th payments for CSA and fruit (if you have that) were due yesterday. A few folks sent theirs in on time thanks. For most of you, this is the final payment, no pmts due in Sept and Oct. We have a pmt roster in the store so ask if you're not sure.

Supporting Local Agriculture:

Thanks to all of you for the support you give by buying a CSA membership, shopping at farmers markets or buying local at supermarkets. This makes a huge impact keeping our farmland viable. Because if farmers can't make even a subsistence living, the land gets turned to other uses, some of which may not conform to zoning restrictions meant to conserve agricultural lands. We see a lot of that in our valley, with illegal wineries springing up on lands zoned for agriculture. Not only do these compete unfairly with legitimate businesses operating on commercially zoned properties (who have to pay a much higher tax rate) but it raises the property values for ag lands to the point where farmers cannot afford to purchase land.

We are happy that we still have the ability to provide high quality vegetables for our customers, and can do it while still paying our employees at least a subsistence wage, much higher than the average for farm work. I don't subscribe to the notion that the "owner" or "manager" should necessarily get paid a lot more than the field workers. The field work, contrary to what most might think, is a highly skilled job and without them we wouldn't have a farm. So one might ask, who is the most important? Interesting thought.

We're certainly happy to have some fresher air and cooler temps right now. It was an endurance contest to get through the last two weeks. All of our employees showed up for work every day, and even our wonderful volunteers didn't abandon us. Not only did harvesting get done but we managed to plant over half of our fall crops (and keep them alive). And our members managed to get out there in the heat and do their u-pick although it wasn't much fun.

So lots to be thankful for – I've been observing other workers I see in the course of everyday life that don't necessarily get paid much attention to. The dry cleaners sweating over the irons, the road workers in a cloud of dust and fumes that I pass in my air-conditioned car, the dock workers standing on steel decks unloading shipments of goods from overseas largely made by people working for little for companies that care little for their health or comfort, so we can buy them cheaper. We could go on and on I suppose, but even though we cannot totally affect change, at least we should be grateful and admiring of those who give so much of themselves rather than looking down on them. I for one am getting really tired of hearing about the issue of migrant farm workers. As if they are taking advantage of us – really?

There was a good article in the PCC Sound Consumer this month regarding the effect on our food supply that a decrease in the available labor will have. This brought to mind an expose of conditions for farm workers in Mexico that was published by the LA Times in 2014 which I saved. I'll be copying some if it for interested folks to see starting next week. All for now-----

