

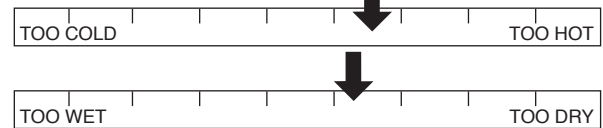
Hog's Back Handbook

June 1, 2010



Farm Report 6/1/10

Rainfall0.34"
High Temperature 90°
Low Temperature 39°
Farmer Complaint Indicators™:



Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2010 season at Hog's Back Farm. The weather has been warm and the crops are looking good for next week. Our first share deliveries of the season will be next Thursday, June 10! Please mark it on your calendar. This handbook has all the info you need to know to make the first and subsequent share pickups go smoothly for you and us. Whether you're new to the farm this year, or one of our veteran members please read through the handbook in case there have been changes. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to grow your veggies again this year.

Farm News

It's always quite busy around here this time of year. We really take advantage of the month of May to get things done which we don't seem to get done once the harvest starts. We spent a significant amount of time this spring getting our new greenhouse up and running. We started moving plants into it at the end of April and it's been very nice. We'll have to do some more work on it this fall but for now it's working great. Not that we've had much need for a greenhouse with the warm weather we've had lately. It's really been a little too warm at the farm this spring, which has made many of the greenhouse plants over-mature and more difficult to transplant.

It's also been quite dry around here until the last couple

of weeks, so we've managed to keep on top of most of our plantings for your boxes. This week is the only one where we've had to race around the off and on rain to get the work done.

What's new for 2010

Honestly, not much has changed for the 2010 season. Maybe the biggest thing that's changed is that we've leveled off our membership numbers and are trying to do about the same amount of shares as last year. We're trying to see if this is the size that we'd like to stay at.

We haven't altered things drastically as a result of last year's surveys, but tweaked them a little here and there to get more in line with what the majority of folks want. One thing that will be new with this first delivery is that we'll be including 4 herb plants (2 thyme, 1 sage and 1 oregano) grown here at the farm for you to plant at home. They can be planted in your yard or in large pots. Several people suggested this in the surveys and I think it's a great idea. That way you can have your own herbs whenever you want them. We'll still be delivering basil and parsley with the shares and some thyme for the winter shares.

We also have a couple of new workers at the farm this year. Alissa and Cheryl are both living and working on the farm. They both come with previous farming experience under their belts which is great. Oddly, they both spent time working on the same farm in Connecticut at differ-



ent times. Alissa has a number of years experience so we're mentoring her as she tries her hand at starting her own small CSA. When she's not working for us she's working on her own plot for her 10 csa members. Jesse is back putting up with us for another year, as he thinks about transitioning to his own farm operation in the not too distant future.

What are my responsibilities as a member of Hog's Back Farm?

The single most important thing (besides enjoying their veggies) members can do during the season is to read the newsletter. It contains important info about what's in the box, news, things you need to know and recipes. They are also always available on the website. The other general responsibilities are:

- 1) You agree to make a financial contribution to the farm in the spring for that season's share of vegetables.
- 2) You agree to pick up your share each week at the location and times specified, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- 3) You agree to transfer your veggies to bags at the pickup site and leave the box behind.

What do I do when I pick up my share?

When you pick up your share you will take one new box from the stack at the pickup site, open it up and transfer the produce to grocery bags or if you have some cloth bags or your own box that works well too. Please bring bags with you to the pickup site because there are not always bags available. There will be a clipboard with a list of members at the site. It is very important that you check your name off of the list so that we know you picked up your share. Please be careful checking off your name so that you check the right box, and please don't let children check off your name which can lead to confusion. Also there may be extra items from the farm that didn't make it into the box and these will be identified accordingly. At left is a picture of one of our boxes. When they're



closed they stack on top of each other, when open they nest inside of each other. Help us keep the pickup sites neat and avoid confusion by stacking empty boxes inside of each other in one or two stacks, do not close the lids on empty boxes or they get mistaken for full ones.

If I'm splitting a share can I just go to the pickup site and take my part out of our box?

No. This is our single biggest source of pickup site problems. To avoid confusion at the pickup sites it is important that people who are splitting shares take the entire share with them and agree to meet whomever they're splitting with to divide the share. There cannot be share boxes left at the pickup site with only a partial share left in them because they do get taken by mistake by people who have paid for a full share. It is o.k. to split the share into grocery bags and leave the split half clearly labeled for the folks you split with. We rely on you to communicate with the folks you split a share with to avoid confusion.

When do I pick up my share?

Share pickup times vary by pickup site. Shares are dropped off in a loop starting with South Minneapolis, St. Louis Park sites, Humboldt, and St. Paul. Here are approximate times when your shares should be ready for pickup:

4411 18th Ave, Minneapolis	1:30pm
5512 Columbus Ave, Minneapolis	2:00pm
3916 Colorado Ave, St. Louis Park	2:30pm
3936 Natchez, St. Louis Park	2:45pm
4740 W 27th St, St. Louis Park	3:00pm
4001 Highwood, St. Louis Park	3:15pm
2445 Humboldt, Minneapolis	3:30pm
1686 St. Clair, Saint Paul	4:00pm
1184 Hague, Saint Paul	4:15pm

Please be patient if we are not there right on time. Rarely are we more than ten minutes late, things do go wrong some mornings, like the time in 2008 that they stopped the truck at the MN/WI border weigh station for over an hour. The shares are available for pickup at all sites until 7pm.

What do I do if I'm going to be late?

If you are going to be unable to make it by 7pm you must make prior arrangements. Shares that are left past 7pm will be taken somewhere where the food will get used. The best solution is to have someone pick up the share for you if you are unable to pick it up yourself. **IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT ON TIME AND WILL BE LATE TO PICK UP YOUR SHARE YOU MUST LET THE PICKUP SITE HOST KNOW SO THAT THEY DO NOT GIVE AWAY YOUR SHARE.** If they do not hear from you they are authorized to give away your share after 7pm. You do

not need to contact us if someone else is picking up your share for you, unless they will be picking it up late. Please explain the procedure for picking up your share to whoever picks it up for you, there is not always someone available at the pickup site to answer questions. This handbook is also always available on the website, just go to the homepage and click on the Handbook tab. Please be respectful and courteous by picking up your share on time. We rely on the goodwill of the people who host the pickup sites and need your cooperation.

What do I do if I'm going on vacation?

Again the easiest solution is to have a neighbor or friend pick up your share, or it makes a nice reward for the house-sitter or mail-collector. You do not need to contact us if someone else is picking up your share, just let them know how to do it. Alternately you may opt for us not to pack your box during that time, or to donate your share to a nearby food shelf. If you would like to pursue either of these options please let us know by email at least a week in advance.

What else will be available for purchase at the share pickup?

We will again be offering local maple syrup and honey for purchase at the pickup sites. Exact change or checks are helpful. If you have specific requests (larger sizes of syrup and honey) please let us know by email. We also will have our own organic Hog's Back Farm tote bags for sale for the first few weeks if you want to look really swank picking up your share. If you have other suggestions or things you'd like to see drop us a line and we can probably point you in the right direction. Please watch the newsletter for more information on the syrup, honey and fruit ordering.

How do I contact Hog's Back Farm?

Our contact information is listed at the bottom of each of these pages. Far and away the best way to contact us is by email since we can respond to it when it's convenient. If you need to contact us immediately you can try the cell phone number listed below. But be aware that we are in a very rural area and the cell phone coverage can be weak, and that sometimes tired farmers forget to charge their phone or can't hear it ring over the din of the tractor. Leave a message there and we will get it. My cell phone doesn't accept texts and we're not on Facebook. And again if you need to pick up your share late or make other arrangements regarding share pickup you should contact your pickup site host. The pickup site host phone numbers are listed below.

Can I come to the farm and weed carrots?

Of course! We have two field days at the farm this season. They are listed below. You also can make arrangements to come out at other times, just contact us in advance. We always need help on the share harvest days (Wednesdays and Thursdays) so if you need a day out in the sunshine let us know. We appreciate it when you let us know you are coming, non-member friends and family are always welcome at field days.

Field days are a chance to get out into the country and see your food growing. Lend a hand and get dirty, or go for a walk through the fields and woods. They've also become known for their world-class pot-luck lunches. Field days will be canceled in the event of rain, watch the newsletter for field day details and check our blog for last-minute field day changes.

Saturday July 10

If you argued that we really don't have a summer in the upper Midwest, that there's just spring and fall than this would be the end of spring and the beginning of fall. Come out to help transplant the fall veggies and pick the last of the spring peas. For the lucky few who venture into the woods at the edge of the field this is also peak time for the wild blackcap raspberries.

Saturday, September 25

Come out to the farm and pick out pumpkins for yourself and the kids. Fall is a beautiful time to come out to the farm and savor the change in the seasons. The big pumpkins don't show up in the share boxes, so this is your only chance to get them. Please RSVP for this field day so we make sure that we have enough pumpkins for everyone. Last year we had to enlist a neighbor's hay wagon since we had too many people to fit just on ours.



Share pickup sites

Below are addresses and details of the share pick up sites, a map of them all can be found on our website by clicking on the Signup tab. These are member's homes who have graciously allowed us to use them to distribute our shares, please respect their privacy. Please check the listing above for when the shares are available at each site. All share deliveries are on Thursdays each week.

4411 18th Ave S, Minneapolis

The South Minneapolis site is the home of Andy and Jen Boss. The pickup will take place in front of their home to the side of the front door. It's easiest to park on 44th and walk down the alley. Their telephone number is (612)-825-0723

5512 Columbus Ave S, Minneapolis

Sheila and Drake Jacobson host this site. Pickup takes place in front of their garage on the alley. It's o.k. to drive down the alley but please respect the neighbors. Their telephone number is (612) 821-0755.

3916 Colorado Ave, St. Louis Park

Chris and Cathryn Kasic are the hosts of this pickup site. The pickup will take place in front or to the side of their garage. Their telephone number is 952-925-7839.

3936 Natchez, St. Louis Park

Kelly Bunte hosts this Saint Louis Park site. The pickup will take place in their driveway in front of the garage. Their telephone number is (952)-926-2498.

4740 W 27th St, St. Louis Park

Liba and Jeffrey Herman host this Saint Louis Park pickup site. Pickup will be alongside the second garage, it's o.k. to drive up their driveway. Their phone number is (612)-791-5550.

4001 Highwood, St. Louis Park

Lisa Genis and Steve Pratt host this Saint Louis Park pickup site. The pick-up takes place on the driveway, or in the garage. Please park on the street and walk up the driveway. Their telephone number is (952)-922-8747.

2445 Humboldt, Minneapolis

The Kenwood/Uptown site is the home of Alex Rothman and Nina Sayer. Their address is 2445 Humboldt Ave S. They are 3 blocks east of Lake of the Isles and 2 blocks west of Hennepin. The pickup is at their garage off of the alley. The easiest thing to do is park on W 25th St and walk up the alley. Their telephone number is (612) 381-9737.

1686 St. Clair, St. Paul

The Mac/Groveland St. Paul site is the home of Sharon Jansa and Keith Barker. Park on the street and the pickup is on the front porch. Their telephone number is (651) 489-3362.

1184 Hague, St. Paul

The Hague Ave St. Paul site is the home of Julie and Leben McCormick. Park on the street and the pickup is on the front porch. Their telephone number is (651) 917-2747.

Where is Hog's Back Farm and How Do I Get There?

We are located 65 miles southeast of Saint Paul in Pepin County, Wisconsin. New for 2010 is I have us precisely located on google maps, so it's easier for folks to find directions to us from anywhere. Go to maps.google.com and enter your address in the box and after it type "to Hog's Back Farm 54721", so, for example, if I wanted to get from the 4001 Highwood pickup site to the farm I'd type the following into the box "4001 Highwood, St. Louis Park, MN to Hog's Back Farm 54721". That will give you exact directions to our farm from that location. If you need help getting directions just email us.