

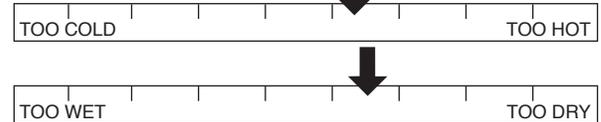
Hog's Back Handbook

May 29, 2012



Farm Report 5/29/2012

Rainfall0.34"
High Temperature 94°
Low Temperature 42°
Farmer Complaint Indicators™:



Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2012 season at Hog's Back Farm. Our first share deliveries of the season will be next Thursday, June 7! 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

Things are humming along pretty good at the farm by the time that we get to the first share deliveries. About 75% of our crops are in the ground for the year. It's been a bumpy ride during May, with wild weather from 90° with a 30 mile per hour wind, to a low of 42° a couple of nights ago. We've had adequate rainfall, but almost all of it in the form of fast-moving raucous storms. This has made it a challenging month despite the warm weather. Hopefully as we turn the corner into June things will start to settle in to a calmer summer pattern.

We've also been busy getting all the boxes power-washed for the year and disinfecting all of our harvest crates, tools and packing shed to get them ready for the first harvest. We've rounded up more maple syrup from our neighbor, but won't have any honey until later in the year since the farmer we buy it from had a bad honey year in 2011.

What's new for 2012?

Each year brings changes on the farm, and this year is no different. I think this year has fewer changes than previous seasons. Maybe we're finally hitting some sort of plateau where we can cease ramping up. No real major acquisitions this year, just upgrading a few pieces of equipment. We put what's called a 'creeper' gear set in the JD tractor, it's hard not to refer to it without using your best Scooby Doo monster voice. A set of creeper gears make the tractor go extra slow, hence the name, much slower than walking speed, so that we can transplant very accurately behind it. If we're going too fast we can miss a lot of transplants.

We are also always adding to our growing supply of concrete at the farm. This year we added a 16x16 foot slab outside the side door of the packing shed. Now we can actually roll things outside from the shed, or be able to back up to the side door on hard, level ground which will be a big improvement on rainy days. It also gives me a hard clean surface to wash down the tractor or other equipment when it gets full of dirt. And with the addition of a hoop over Memorial day, it's doing duty as a mini basketball court for the farm.

Also new this year is the addition of the fruit shares to our offerings. I'm excited to be able to offer this, and am also excited to get some better fruit for my own family at the same time. I look forward to your feedback about the fruit to see if it's a good fit for our customers and what we can do to make it better.



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. The newsletter is emailed to everyone on Thursday mornings. If you aren't receiving it go to our website, click on 'Newsletters' and enter your info to subscribe. The newsletter 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. The checklist is how we determine who hasn't picked up their share at the end of the night, so keeping it neat and tidy is helpful.



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 nesting 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 and chaos ensues!

Please keep in mind that the pickup site hosts have graciously offered their homes and their time to host a pickup site for you. Keep it neat and organized and we all benefit.

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. If you need to pick up your share earlier it may not be available, or your pickup site host may not be able to accommodate you coming earlier, please contact them or David if this is an issue.

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 appreciate 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, although we won't have honey available until later this summer. 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.

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 or you can text me at that same number. 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. 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 out to the farm?

Of course! We are always happy to have folks come out and visit, but the farm is a very busy place during the summer. We always need help on the share harvest days (Wednesdays) 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 too.

Otherwise, our Pumpkin Day is the best time to come to the farm.

Pumpkin Day and Harvest Party Saturday, September 29th

Fall is a great time to visit the farm. Things have calmed down, the colors are starting to turn, and the weather is usually cool and dry. The Pumpkin Day just seems to get better every year. Last year we had beautiful cool weather, a great turnout and some excellent live music. We usually take a hay wagon ride around the farm, we may have to have three wagons this year since two is getting kind of crowded. The kids and adults pick pumpkins from the field and we have a great pot-luck spread afterwards. Mark it down on your calendar now!



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. We are 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 or call.