



Berry CSA Information

Coming Soon...

Sweet cherries and raspberries will be ready within the next week or so. You might find some in next week's fruit share!

Need More Fruit?

If you pick up in Albion, we always have fruit and veggies on the stand available for purchase. If you pick up in Medina or are interested in larger quantities, let us know ahead of time and we can set an order aside for you.

Pickings from the Patch

It is such a busy time of the year for Kerry that when it is time to collect thoughts for our newsletter, I (Guin) don't like to make this request of Kerry. So, for this week, I will tell you a little about her from my perspective...

Kerry is one of the hardest working women I know and one of the sweetest! Up early and to bed late, she does it all with a smile and a gracefulness about her. Despite picking, and moving hundreds (and sometimes thousands) of quarts a morning, she still has time for a grandchild that needs a hug or wants a ride on the gator.

She takes great care in each berry that goes into a quart. Pickers pick into pots, which she then transfers to quart containers, looking for and removing any unripe or damaged berries. She fills each quart to heaping so that her customers get a more than full measure to enjoy.

Whenever I get the opportunity to represent Panek's Pickin' Patch, I am proud to sell our fruit. I have heard from countless customers that they think our fruit is the best and this is a tribute to the Kerry's conscientious and nurturing nature. Just this past Saturday, I wrote down one gentleman's comment. "You have the best strawberries. I won't get them anywhere else; it's

the third time I've seen you this week. I know the work that goes into them, because I used to raise two acres. Yours are the best."

I am not sure if Kerry could have dreamed her operation would grow so successfully when she started 30 years ago, but she has built and continues to build a wonderful legacy.

Guin Panek for Kerry Panek, Panek's Pickin' Patch
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Life on the Ledge

I have been grateful this year for help from family and friends. Alan and I are blessed with two boys, Dudley James, 20 months, and Grady John, 3 months. For those of you who know me, I love doing my own work and if I could have it my way, would do all the tasks, from plowing to harvest, picking rocks, to pulling weeds. It is simply not possible in this phase of motherhood, so I have had to rely on lots of help from others.

So a little thank you to my family:

Alan- for plowing, and laying the plastic beds
Char (my Mom) - for babysitting so I could help with planting and can attend farmers markets
Kerry -for rototilling and babysitting
Jeff (my Dad)-for pruning my grapevines, sending help when needed, and more.

Whenever I have a chance, I still sneak out to my garden to get a quick bit of work done. Naptimes are sacred, especially if both boys are napping at the same time! They do "help" in the garden, but Dudley likes to walk on top of the strawberry beds, instead of between the rows, and prefers throwing straw to playing with his soccer ball in cover crop section. Needless to say, not a lot of work gets done. Still, I know the value of life on a farm, growing up among other growing things, the sun on your face, and dirt on your hands. I am fortunate to be able to raise my boys in this way.

Guinevere (Smith) Panek, Ledge Rock Farms
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