

Farm Girl Field Notes

CSA edition September 22, 2013



We appreciate you!

Thank you all for a WONDERFUL season. We have truly enjoyed providing fresh berries and fruit to you in 2013!

This being our first year, we have learned some of what worked well and some of what didn't. Watch your email in the next few weeks for a survey; please help us improve for next year, by providing your feedback.

To show our appreciation, we have given each of our CSA customers a packet of coupons. Redeem them at:

Our stand in Albion any day, any time
Thursdays in Medina's Erie Canal Basin 12-5 pm
Saturdays in Albion's Save-A-lot parking lot 9am-2pm

County House Christmas Trees

County House Christmas Trees, Formerly Hu-Lane, is moving a half mile down the road to Panek's! We are excited about this change and have lots of new, exciting things to offer: Fresh and potted Christmas trees, Winter Farmers' Market, Designer Wreaths, Holiday Arrangements, Handmade Gifts, & Baked Goods.

We will open for the season the day after Thanksgiving, November 29, 2013.

Pickings from the Patch

Just a few notes on what is left to do in the strawberry patch to get them ready for next spring. After renovation we tend to get so busy with fall activities that we leave the strawberry fields to fend for themselves. If time allows we go through and pull out those stubborn weeds; otherwise we let the frost take care of that job.

The plants themselves are getting ready for next year's crop. Sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas, depending on weather, we cover the rows of berries with a layer of straw. The straw provides many benefits: including protecting the crown (growing point of the plant) from freezing and thawing and keeping the weeds in check.

When we uncover the berries in early spring the straw also keeps the berries nice and clean and protects our knees as we pick.

It has truly been our privilege to have you as faithful CSA members. We hope you have enjoyed getting your fruit shares and we look forward to seeing you all next year. Have a safe healthy winter.

Kerry Panek, Panek's Pickin' Patch
585-589-6155

Life on the Ledge

When I was writing the newsletter the other morning, I didn't realize that we'd had a slight frost. Nervous, after spotting frost on the lawn, I hustled out to the garden. There was a frost on some of the berries, but a light one and not enough to injure them. So, the picking continued.

This past Saturday, left a soggy 2.25 inches of rain in the patch. When I went out to check how the berries fared, it was as I expected, two of the varieties were basically destroyed. Fortunately, my favorite variety, Albion, was in much better shape. So, we will continue to pick that variety as long as we can and are glad we have some strawberries for the last CSA week.

Two new varieties of apples are being released in New York State this year, SnapDragon and Ruby



Frost. They are premium apples, similar in quality to Honey Crisp. They weren't quite ripe enough by the CSA this week, but we will have them in limited quantities at

the Farmers' Market and Panek's through the end of October.



We can't say it enough, thank you for your support and business this season. We look forward to serving you again in the future.
Guinevere (Smith) Panek, Ledge Rock Farms
585-590-2356

