

Farm Connection

Your Meat CSA

Country Haven Farm

Issue 5

Marr's Valley View Farm

Welcome to your September CSA newsletter. Thank you to everyone who answered our survey. The information is very helpful so we can serve your needs better!

On the reusable bag question, we came up with mixed opinions but wanted to offer this solution. Those of you who have “reusable bags” that you would like us to use, simply put your name on your bag and drop it off when you pick up your meat this month and we will deliver your meat in your bag next month. We'll be environmentally conscious and not have to purchase new bags! Otherwise, we'll continue to deliver as we have been.

Predators

I promised to discuss predators a little this month. We've had a few challenges this summer.

First, in the spring, we had some meat chickens disappear. We found their remains out in the pasture about 75 yards away from the barn. By doing some research we determined that the chickens had fallen prey to an owl that was flying into the barn over the fences at night and snatching up the birds. We had one injured bird that survived, we found 2 birds that didn't and more were missing we never found. Our solution was that we hung bird netting from the ceiling in the barn down past the fences. The chicken snatching stopped so our prevention methods must have worked.

Then, this summer we started losing the laying hens. We started with 29 and are now down to 23. These hens also roamed the farm freely during the day and were locked in the barn at night. When the first chickens disappeared (noted by counting them each night) we weren't sure what it was, but our neighbors had lost their entire little flock of 8 laying hens one night to a raccoon. (Again, identified by what was left behind.) But then, I went out and saw the Cornish hens huddling one night in their pen at the same time that the neighbor saw a red fox cross the road from our farm to their woodland. Since then the fox has been seen twice...once in the early morning through a window and once about 6pm when it was chasing one of our chickens! Our solution was to fence in an area for our chickens during the day. Until the fox finds a new food source our chickens are not safe roaming the yard.



Those turkeys that were poults (chicks) just a few months ago, now stand 2 feet tall. They enjoy fallen apples, garden waste and freshly baled hay. They gobble when the train blows it's horn and when the horses neigh. We've raised the bronze variety which looks very similar to the wild turkeys that frequent our backyard. (The fox has also taken a toll on the wild turkeys...we've gradually seen the hen with her brood of 3 poults dwindle to 1.) This month you'll receive chicken again for your poultry share, but next month you'll receive your turkey.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to continue their share through the winter. We appreciate your support of our farms.

Pick Up Schedule

Your meat will be delivered frozen to the host families on Thursday, September 10th. Please pick up your share at your designated location between 3pm and 6pm that day.

If you will be delayed, please contact your host so they can protect your product. Here are their addresses and contact information.

Shorewood Pick-up – Martha Davis Kipcak, 4043 N. Downer Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211

Cell Phone: 414-628-3456

West Milwaukee Pick-up – Jennifer Girtler, 2845 S. 70th St, Milwaukee, WI 53219

Cell Phone: 414-364-4775

Any questions – call us at **920-253-8515**.