

Farm Connection

Your Meat CSA

Country Haven Farm

2010 Winter Issue 7

Marr's Valley View Farm

Hello from Marr's Valley View Farms! It is an incredibly busy time right now. Finally the weather has given us a reprieve so the fields and crops can dry out enough to allow harvesting of the corn and soybeans to begin. We raise our corn and alfalfa hay to feed the animals. We also rotationally raise soybeans to help with weed management in the fields and sell them on the commodity market. This year has been an emotional roller coaster when it comes to weather and the raising of crops. Mid-summer an unprecedented hail storm damaged over 75,000 acres of crops in LaFayette, Grant and Crawford counties. In short, it missed our farm by less than 5 miles but it was devastating to see the damage our neighbors to the South and West had to their crops - in many cases it was a total loss. After that, mother nature treated us well and we were on track for a record corn crop - enter the rainy month of October! Due to the never ending wet weather the corn has an unusually high moisture content for this time of year - what does that mean? When the corn is harvested from the fields it is sent by truck to the local grain dryer to take the moisture level down to prevent spoilage during storage throughout the winter. At the current high moisture levels the corn has to be dried for a longer time to reach the optimum moisture content for long term storage. This has put the dyers behind and also costs the farmer more in drying expenses. Ah the joys of dealing with the cards Mother Nature sends our way. She keeps us on our toes - that's for sure.

Other tasks needing attention this time of year are replacing some fence in pastures. I don't know exactly how many miles of fence line we have but on a farm of just under 600 acres I know it requires more fencepost than I care to put in by hand. Fencing is like caring for your car. If you keep up with it, change your oil on a regular basis, your car will last for many years to come. Same with fencing. If you fix little things when they happen, a fence will last a long time. Our dad was the last of the great "patcher uppers" as our mom used to call him. He could find anything needed to fix anything needing fixing on the farm. In today's world - having jobs off the farm as well - the time for "patchin up" is much less so we have been replacing many fence lines with brand new over the last couple of years. Many a smile has crossed our faces as we find example after example of dad's handy work in the deteriorating fences. Our dad has been physically gone from this world for seven years now but he still lives on everywhere we look.



Our families wish you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving. We are all extremely thankful for your support of our farms.

Sponsor a Friend

We still have a few winter shares available. For November and December, if you sponsor a friend to join our Winter CSA, we'll give you and that friend 5% off your Summer CSA share starting in May, 2010. For example, if your friend signs up for a share before the end of 2009, (any share size) telling us you are their sponsor, when you and/or they sign up for your summer share (any size) in 2010, you'll each receive 5% off your share....you and they save from \$24 to \$39! Just a way for us to say "thank you" for helping spread the word about our CSA!

Pick Up Schedule

Your meat will be delivered frozen to the host families on Thursday, November 12th. Please pick up your share at your designated location between 3pm and 6pm that day.

Farm pickups can be made after 5pm.

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.