

Great-grandfather's barn at Spring Brook Farm, circa 1901

Early 2006 Update

Hello everyone and Happy New Year. This newsletter is to let you know of a few changes taking place at the farm and how the 2006 season is shaping up. There is a lot of information in this newsletter so please read it thoroughly. It is also available on the website for your reference.

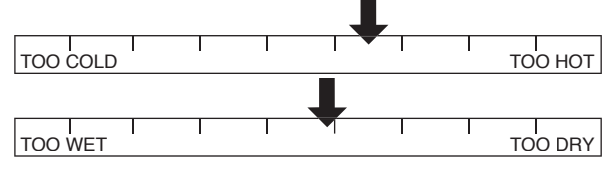
Let me first thank you for participating in the 2005 season. It was our best year yet and gives us the courage to press on with this project. This year is bringing some big changes to our farm and our lives and we would appreciate your patience with us as we adjust to some new routines.

The first big change is that we are expecting a new baby in the next few weeks, we'll keep you posted about that one. The next change is that we're actually moving to a house about 5 miles north of the farm in the next few months. As you may or may not know we have kept our home in St. Paul for the last three years and have finally gotten to a point that we can make the move. In 2007 we will be moving the farming operation from the current location to the land near the house. All of this has made 2006 a little complicated, so we will be trying to keep some things simple by staying in the same amount of shares as we had last year.

We also are changing the way which you sign up for a share. If you are receiving this letter it means we already have you signed up for a share in 2006. We are trying an opt-out system this year rather than an opt-in system. That means that everyone who was signed up for a share last year has been automatically signed up for a share in 2006. If you would rather not receive a share this year you have until February 28th to let us know, after which time you will be responsible for the share that we've held for you. The reason we are doing it this way is that we typically have a 75% return rate from year to year, so it is easier to keep track of the 25% who will *not* renew than it is to sign-up the 75%

Farm Report

Snowfall.0.50"
High Temperature 42°
Low Temperature 12°
Coming next week More seed ordering
Farmer Complaint Indicators™ :



all over again. This will also make it easier for folks who intend to renew but forget and then miss out. If you have any questions about this don't hesitate to drop me an email.

What this does mean is that we really do need to hear from the folks who will not be getting a share this year. Share availability will be very tight this year and I don't want to start turning people away only to have several more shares become available afterward. Please do us the courtesy of letting us know as soon as possible if you do not wish to get a share this year. A few people already have and we really appreciate their promptness in letting us know. We have set February 28th as a deadline for letting us know, after which we will be sending out a mailing to the folks on the waiting list to let them know how many shares we have available and how to sign up.

After March 1st we will send out a statement to everyone with which you can pay for your share. If you'd like to pay for your share earlier that would be wonderful. We really can use money early in the season to get seeds and supplies ordered for the year. If you would like to pay now please send a check to Hog's Back Farm, 680 Hyacinth Ave E, Saint Paul, MN 55106.

Speaking of paying, there are a couple of changes on this front as well. The first is that the price of the regular season share has increased to \$495, it has remained steady for the past three years and this year reflects a 10% increase. This price increase will help us maintain our budgets in the face of increasing costs. The price of the winter share will remain the same, \$225.

The other change is that interest rates are on the rise and, as a way to hedge against paying too much interest to the bank, I'm offering a limited number of 'investment shares' to interested members who'd like to help the farm in a longer-term way. The way the investment shares work is that a member would

purchase an investment share for \$2000. For that share they would get a summer and a winter share for each of the next three years. This reflects a savings of \$160 over regular prices, and also protects against any price increases. If this is of interest to you please email me. We also have some very specific investment opportunities for members who wish to do more.

As the price of everything increases we also understand the crunch this puts on folks who are trying to do the right thing and support a local farm but who must struggle a bit to do so. With that in mind we will also be offering a limited number of 'work shares' this year. Work shares will be available to members who can make a significant time commitment to the farm in lieu of paying for their share. Again, if this interests you please email me and I can give you the details.

And the last major change we will be making is that we will be moving to a single delivery day each week. All of our shares will be delivered on Thursdays. We have made this change for a couple of reasons: 1. Friday shares have always been harder to sell and harder to get picked up consistently in the summer and 2. Two days away from the farm doing deliveries is too much time away from the fields. The good news about this is that shares should be available earlier in the day and it will help us save on fuel costs.

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON FOR EACH SHARE IS GETTING THIS MAILING. IF YOU SPLIT A SHARE PLEASE SHARE THIS INFO WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS. IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE IN THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTERS. THANKS.

Hog's Back Farm
680 Hyacinth Ave E
Saint Paul, MN 55106
www.hogsbackfarm.com

So to sum up:

1. You are already signed up for a share, if you don't want it let us know by February 28th
2. Share prices this year are \$495 for the regular share and \$225 for winter
3. You may pay for your share now or wait until you get a statement from us in March
4. Contact me if you're interested in the investment or worker share options
5. All share deliveries this year will be on Thursdays
6. After March 1st our address will be:
Hog's Back Farm
W8937 Moritz Lane
Arkansaw, WI 54721
7. If your mailing a payment now please send it to our old address: 680 Hyacinth Ave E, St. Paul, 55106
8. If you have any questions or want to let us know that you won't be getting a share next year please let me know by email, david@hogsbackfarm.com. Please let me know your name, if you share with anyone and which site you pick up at.

**PLEASE READ
IMPORTANT INFORMATION INSIDE**