

# Jenny-Jack Sun Farm

## "good food news"

The paper thin veil separating a profitable, bountiful harvest and total crop loss is something every farm and farmer accepts as reality. In one starlit, calm night a herd of deer can mow an entire field of ready-to-pick peas and over the course of just a few days worms, ants, and any other swarm of tenacious insects can nullify weeks of composting, seeding, watering, and nurturing. These extremes may be identified within hours or days and from season to season as we are now experiencing. We were riding high during the spring and summer with smiles and shoulders full of chips, unopposed by nature's evil, self-serving vigilantes. Rows and rows of pure beauty, healthy and strong like pictures exemplified in magazines. With the paper thin veil ripped to shreds, our rows of fall crops are anything but prestigious. It's not pretty for the farmer or the eaters patronizing our farm, but if I may be so bold as to say...it's real. We Americans tend to connect our dots in a grocery store world where everything is perfect and homogenous and immaculate, subsidized in half-truths and derelict reasoning. If we were to unwrap the glittery paper of our consumer economy and reveal life lived within the land-based economies, I think we would find, much like CSA members have discovered all over the country, that sometimes aphids come with kale and sometimes the chard is small and chewed and sometimes it's all flawless, it's all as intended.

What is also real are the marketing consequences engendered by an almost complete loss of kale, chard, and beets. The cauliflower, broccoli, and cabbage crops are also underperforming compared to prior harvests. We hope to still have a diverse offering of vegetables for our CSA members, supplementing their shares with local grits, pecans, and farm canned goods, but our market customers (on-farm and Columbus) will need to look elsewhere for their seasonal produce. Unfortunately, there is no button to press to make it all go away and no downloadable app capable of altering the unrest. At least it's not four acres of total loss and at least two-thirds of the year dealt us a hand so much better than average. The positive and the negative, finding balance amidst conflict, I suppose all of us are familiar with the journey.

### Wednesday Market UPDATE

The On-Farm Market will be CLOSED for the remainder of the year. We will, of course, still continue distributing shares to CSA members and Rachel will still sell her baked goods, but we are experiencing too much of a crop loss to continue selling extra food. Typically, we have plenty of extra greens and roots to offer folks through November, but disease and pests have been relentless in their feeding efforts and so we will hunker down and work to provide our CSA shareholders with plenty of food the remaining 7 weeks. Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to a bountiful, lush, bugless spring.

### Picture of the Week

Folks, if you haven't noticed from the above report things are kinda falling apart in the fields which are bleeding into our machine life as well. The weed whacker, digital camera, and the ipod all stopped operating in the last two weeks. So, the new ipod touch will be rolling out in stores across the country in about a month which will operate as both a camera and mp3 player. Fancy! So, probably no more photos until the new purchase.

Our produce may be found at the downtown Columbus Market on Saturdays from 9-12 and our On Farm Market Wednesdays from 9-12. We have a 125 member CSA with drop-off locations in Lagrange, Columbus, and On-farm. You can also find our produce on the menu of Food Blossoms Catering out of Hamilton and the Bakery and Café in Pine Mountain.

Take good care,  
Chris and Jenny