



The Farm at Miller's Crossing

Week of September 22nd 2009

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Wheat being cleaned and bagged

Oh this lovely weather

Sunny days like these in September help one forget about our rainy summer. As the sun continues to shine, we are once again irrigating our crops and taking advantage of these final days of summer. There is spinach that has to size up, cabbages that are forming, and beets that we want to get bigger before the '09 growing season really does come to an end.

Even though these days are pleasant, we can feel the approaching winter. Early mornings are chilly with heavy fogs, and the days come rushing to an end as the sun drops earlier each day.

Thoughts turn to piles of fire wood, and the winter supply of hay for the animals, and even to days of skiing and fire side books...but wait, we are supposed to hit 80 degrees this week, and we are still planting vegetables and cover crops—it is not over yet!

As 2009 winds down thoughts inevitable turn to 2010. We are right now preparing next year's fields for vegetable production—spreading compost, seeding cover crops, and working the

soil.

It is in these early moments of “next year” that I feel the optimism and excitement that keeps me going. Looking at a bare field that is awaiting seed is like looking at an empty page before you paint. I forget about the pitfalls and struggles, and imagine beautiful crops and neat and tidy rows. Every year we learn, and this year was no exception.

Sometimes it is hard to know what to do with these lessons (we can't stop the rain!) but at least we have been through it, and can maybe plan the next season a little differently in case we do flood again.

Regardless of this year's challenges and whatever lies ahead, the beauty of September and October is notorious for helping me feel great about what we do.

The air is crisp and fresh, the colors are surreal, and as the vegetables come pouring from the fields, I can feel the stress and strain of the past 8 months begin to slip away. Happy autumn!

Sincerely, Chris



Loading for LIC and Flat Bush CSA's