

McDougal's Farm LLC What's Growing On !

February 1st, 2017

Farm News

We love the slower mornings Winter brings. A little more time to savor that cup of coffee. A little more time to enjoy the squirrels and birds. A few more pats for Basil (our dog). Such a contrast from our Summer mornings when our cup of Joe is drank like a shot of whiskey and slammed on the counter on the way out the door. The squirrels and birds become nonexistent (unless they get into the greenhouse) and the fields welcome us at sun up. Basil finally has a job and tends to be at her very best when there is work to be done. Not sure if it's the Australian Sheppard or the McDougal in her, but the little redhead loves to work.

While Spring makes all the pros of having greenhouses and hoop houses obvious, winter quickly reminds us of the cons. They are amazing little structures, but snow is not their friend and it all needs to be removed from their coverings....an exhausting, endless job all winter. But it does keeps the muscles in shape and it is nice to stick your nose inside them on a sunny winter day to find it feels and smells just like summer.

Most of our seed have already arrived. This always gives us a feeling of comfort somehow. Could be the fear of not being able to get them someday or maybe the actual holding of all that potential in our hands. What fits neatly into a box right now has the capacity to swell and fill every room of our house with produce by October. Just like Jack and the beanstalk, we have a lot of awe and respect for seeds. Each with its own little microchip of information and the capacity to do amazing things in its short life. The seed's ability to adjust to the environment...and even grower over years, fascinates us. The way the seed in its plant portion of its life, takes note of its "stressors" and then changes its DNA so it's off-spring is better suited to handle stress, is kinda mind blowing! Imagine if we had this kind of ambition. We would grow to our highest potential and accomplish astounding, beautiful things. We would make the changes to improve ourselves and our future...willingly and create bounty instead of scarcity. Then we would transform into a better version of ourselves and hand that off to the next generation for them to grow on. Imagine our potential if we had the ambition of a seed. Yes, Winters may give us too much time to think:)

February is CSA sign up month

Many of you are signed up already and that is fannntastic! It keeps us out of the office and in the field where we need to be, come May. But for many of you who haven't sent in your sign up form yet, know you are not behind. In fact February is the nation's most popular CSA sign- up month. We are attaching a 2017 sign up form for your convenience AND we are also inviting you ALL to our upcoming CSA sign up night here on the Farm.

Celebrating National CSA sign up Day on the Farm

Winter Candlelight Hike and CSA Sign-up Night

February 25th, Saturday 7pm-9pm Bring your family and experience your farm in the winter. Quiet and peaceful. Bring your warm boots or snowshoes and enjoy a relaxing hike through the quiet winter fields and woodlands lit by candle light. Make sure to stop in at the big greenhouse to sign up for the upcoming growing season and door prizes, say hi to your farmers, rub elbows with other CSA members and maybe enjoy a mug of hot apple cider around the bonfire. Sign up is not a requirement to enjoy the trails. Healthy snacks or your own personal favorite beverage are all welcome. This event may be canceled or rescheduled if weather does not permit. Donations welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Upcoming workshops

March 18th, Saturday at 1pm- Children's Workshop Hoot, Hoot, Don't Pollute!....be clever instead. What do you get when you add a little cleverness, soil and seeds to a revamped empty plastic liter bottle? An impressive self-watering growing system for flowers or tomatoes. This is the perfect little set up to make successful, proud little growers that may see their creation bloom by Mother's Day. McDougal's Farm will also be welcoming Elise Schuler from the Raptor Education Group. Elise will be bringing in live owls of all sizes! She'll explain why we absolutely love them here on the farm and what good little recyclers they are as well. Each child is asked to bring an empty plastic liter bottle (clear or green), we'll supply the rest. Class held in our big sunny greenhouse. Space is limited, so please call ahead ... cost \$8. w/adult.