

## DERI FARM NEWS

<http://derifarm.com/newsletters/>

### Picnic and Farm Tour

**August 29 - Picnic at noon, tours at 11 AM and 1 PM**

This past Saturday, Deri Farm and Skyline Farm were one of the stops on the Cooperative Extension Office's "Backyard Locavore Tour." While giving a tour, I realized most of you haven't had a tour of the very farm that you have a share in. So, I would like to invite all of you to a potluck picnic and farm tour on Saturday, August 29 (this is the same day as Henry Fest, though you aren't required to go to one in order to go to the other.) I think we can have a picnic at 12 noon either up near the house or on the hill above the flower beds overlooking the vegetable fields. A potluck picnic could be quite fun! If you don't feel like bringing food, there will be a food vendor (seems like tasty food, not your usual fried foods) at Henry Fest. I will give a little tour at 11:00 AM and then one after lunch (let's say 1:00 PM) -- starting in the distribution area in the ell. See you there!

### FARMER'S CORNER

#### Late Blight

I imagine most of you have heard how late blight is decimating tomato and potato crops across New England. The New York Times even had a long article about the disease a few days ago. I have remained somewhat mum about the whole issue because I have remained hopeful for our tomatoes, but didn't want to promise anything that I can't fulfill; however, I think it's now time to give a little update.

With the careful scouting of Kristin and Sarah, early signs of late blight on both tomatoes and potatoes were found several weeks ago. We have removed about one quarter of the field tomato plants and destroyed them. The rest, we have pruned several times and sprayed regularly with an organic approved copper fungicide and a hydrogen dioxide solution. Unfortunately, we can't really kill late blight once it has set in to the plants. The hope is to slow the spread of it by killing the spores as they land on the plants. So far, we have been able to keep late blight from totally killing the crops; however, it is definitely in the field and slowly spreading. Also, given the large number of varieties planted (over twenty tomato and ten potato varieties), some plants are holding out because they are a bit more resistant to late blight.

Since the spores of late blight are now pervasive, I suspect it is only a matter of time until we lose all of the tomato plants. Though some nearby farms/gardens have completely lost all of their tomatoes and potatoes, my hope is that we will be able to harvest tomatoes for a few weeks before losing them. Potatoes on the other hand, seem to be doing well, for now (see the section on new potatoes.) Considering some farms have had total crop loss in a matter of three days, I consider us lucky to have made it this far!

Your Farmer,  
Justin

### EVENTS

**Henry Fest - Aug. 29**

For the second year, Skyline Farm will be host to Henry Fest, an all-day music festival organized by 317 Main St - Community Music Center. Unfortunately, I haven't yet been to a Henry Fest, but it sounds quite fun and I am looking forward to going this year. The music has a bluegrass/folk focus and is family friendly. The festival is August 29 from noon onward. You can find the full schedule and ticket information at the Henry Fest website: <http://www.henryfest.com/>. I look forward to seeing you there (note the picnic and tour I've planned for the same day.)

### HENS HAVE ARRIVED

**But Eggs Are Not Yet Abundant**

As many of you have noted, the hens finally arrived. They are doing well in their portable hen house and on the pasture during the day. Just a few days ago, I found the first eggs. So far, only a few are laying, maybe five or six hens, but each day brings an additional egg or two. Initially, hens lay smaller eggs called pullet eggs. They are about 2/3 the size of a regular egg and have a very hard shell. We will start seeing some double-yolkers too! I hope to start giving eggs out to eggs shares in the next week or two. I will absolutely let you know when eggs are ready for you to pick up. For those of you who didn't buy egg shares, but plan to buy eggs, you'll have to wait a little longer. Again, thank you for your patience on this issue and I will be reimbursing people for the past couple of months of missing eggs.



Trellised tomatoes growing in the hoophouse though there are some spots of late blight.

## GREENS ARE GROWING

### New Potatoes

Last week, we started our potato harvest with two varieties: Dark Red Norland and Red Gold. I noticed that some people must not have taken their share. They may seem a little small because they are new potatoes, but I consider these to be some of the best potatoes of the season. New potatoes haven't been cured, so the skin is quite thin and there is no need to peel them. I really enjoy eating them roasted with a little rosemary or even just cooked with some butter in a pan. Just wash the dirt off of them (we don't wash them so they will stay fresh longer) and slice them if they're a bit bigger and then cook them. We will soon start giving out some of the fingerling varieties which are another treat! This season is a great chance for all of us to appreciate the differences in the varieties as the season progresses.

## PYO FLOWERS

The pick-your-own flowers are now ready to start being picked. You are welcome to come pick flowers anytime. Small scissors are available in the distribution area-- just please be sure to return them. Please pick only from the beds that are marked with signs for PYO.

**All shares include the PYO flowers.  
Come cut flowers anytime, but pick  
only from the marked beds.**

Right now, those flowers include: three varieties of cosmos, rudbeckia, statice (multi-colored), yarrow and dianthus. Please remember to only pick from the marked beds. Also remember, that you are one out of one hundred shares, so please pick your bunches accordingly.



Pick-Your-Own flowers waiting for you!

