



# The Weekly Weeder

A weekly publication for CSA members

**NOVEMBER 12, 2008—BOXES #23 AND 24**

[WWW.RIDGELANDHARVEST.COM](http://WWW.RIDGELANDHARVEST.COM) [CSA@RIDGELANDHARVEST.COM](mailto:CSA@RIDGELANDHARVEST.COM)

## Box Contents & Tips

**Beets**

**Carrots**

**Rutabagas**

**Turnips**

**Beauty Heart Radishes**

**Red and Yellow Storage Onions**

**Garlic**

**Broccoli**

**Brussels Sprouts**

**Leeks**

**Winter Squash, Carnival, and Butternut**

**Celeriac**

## News from the Farm

Well the end of the summer CSA season is over and it would seem that we have finished just in time for winter. The cattle water tank had a 1/4 inch of ice this morning. The crew is happy to be able to work in a warm packing shed until things thaw out enough for us to hit the fields to harvest. Brussels sprouts, kale, and cabbages can handle a freezing as long as we wait until it warms up before harvesting. It always amazes me what these plants can take. Have you noticed how the kale has sweetened in the last month compared to the first offerings? The cold weather converts the starches to sugars and makes them oh so delicious. The one snag is that it hasn't gotten enough above freezing for the plants to thaw, before our window of harvest was gone. As a result the brussels sprouts and leeks won't keep for very long, since they were frozen when harvested— so be sure to eat those up as soon as possible— within the next few days.

We are looking forward to the end of the season and having sometime to work on projects around the house in preparation for our 2nd child however it is always hard to see the harvest season come to an end. Last Saturday also marked the last farmers market of the season for us. We still had a fairly full stand but had a limited amount as we wanted to make certain we would have enough for this last box as well as for the winter boxes.

It is important to us that the CSA receive first priority. We know that there are a few farms that prioritize their wholesale and farmers market customers over their CSA, but we feel that since you are willing to take a leap of faith and pay for your produce in advance that the least we can do is make you our number one priority. We hope that this philosophy was evident the last season and that you feel that you were treated well. We have received some feedback during the course of the previous season which was almost always positive. We want to continue to make improvements, and we can't do that without your honest feedback. To facilitate this we have a member survey on the back of this weeks newsletter for you to complete and return to us. Please be brutally honest and expand upon all of the questions. We are already in the planning stages for 2009 and your responses are taken seriously and are vital to making our CSA better each year.

Thank you for a wonderful season and for supporting our family farm. We hope you will join us next season for another season of good eating!

-Cate, Mat and Paul



Cate washing beauty heart radishes



Cate taking inventory of the cooler



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## 2008 Member Survey

**Hello CSA Members!**

Your comments below are very valuable in the planning for 2009. Please take a moment to **respond and return ASAP** to the address above, as planning for next season is underway.

Thank you,  
Mat and Cate

1. Did you feel the newsletter helped you use, prepare and store the items in your box? Please explain:
2. We'd like to go paperless next season for reasons of sustainability and costs. Members would access the newsletter via our website or receive the newsletter by email. How would you feel about this?
3. What would you like to hear more about in the newsletter next season?
4. What did you think about the amount of food per box?
  - a) Too much (Full Share or Half Share)
  - b) Good (Full Share or Half Share)
  - c) Too little (Full Share or Half Share)
5. What were three of your **favorite** vegetables?
6. What were three of your **least** favorite vegetables?
7. What would you like to receive **more** of during next season?
8. What would you like to receive **less** of during next season?
9. What was something that wasn't offered this season that you would like to receive?
10. Do you plan on signing up with us again next year? Please explain.