



# The Beanstalk

Easy Bean Farm's Weekly Newsletter

Easy Bean Farm

5075 100th Ave. NW Milan, MN 56262

easybean@fedtel.net

**Mixed Red and Green Bell Peppers:** *In the end we were able to glean one last week of peppers. Perfect for vegetable soup!*

**Butternut Squash:** *While MANY of our crops have suffered during this overly wet year, the butternut squash have really liked the weather. WE have been eating these both in sweet and savory dishes and one of our crew members, Maeve, made a delicious Butternut Pie last week.*

**Collard Greens:** *Collards are excellent with fried potatoes or sautéed with garlic over rice.*

**Kennebec Potatoes:** *I think that these Kennebecs are the best of the varieties that we grew this year. WE have been enjoying potatoes in at least one meal every day for the last few weeks.*



**Leeks:** *Leeks are a close relative to the onion but have their own distinctive taste. A simple way to use them is in a delicious Potato Leek Soup. Another great recipe is a Potato Leek Galette made with Gruyere Cheese*

**Onions:** *This year's onion crop came out at about half of what last year's did. Sadly there are lots of smaller onions.*

**Carmen Sweet Peppers:** *The Carmen Peppers are red and are horn shaped. These are, I believe, the sweetest of all of our pepper varieties. These are too good to cook*

**Baby Turnips:** *These Turnips should have sized up more based on the date of planting but, like many things this year, they have underperformed. That said, they are delicious roasted with chunks of potatoes or added to mashed potatoes. The greens are also delicious cooked so DON'T throw them away!*

**Broccoli:** (Full Shares) What needs saying!?!)



---

Folks,

Week Seventeen! In keeping with the general “theme” of this year it looks like our final three days of harvest will all be wet, cloudy, cold and muddy! Despite the fact that this certainly makes things a little harder, our crew is going into the week with good spirits knowing that, just three days from now, the number of days each week with wet socks and underwear are about to drop dramatically! It also helps that I managed to dig a good portion of the remaining potatoes by myself yesterday so that it could be done when, while wet and muddy, it was not actually raining!

This is the final box of our 2018 delivery season and, as I wrote last week, I feel a bit like we are limping into the finish line. While I do feel some sense of accomplishment at making it through the season (we always have), I do feel some regret knowing that we probably failed to meet the expectations that many of you had when the season began. Malena and I are extremely grateful to all of you for helping support our little farm through this “less-than-spectacular” season and for the many kind words that came from those of you, especially those that have been with us for many years. This year was unlike any in recent memory. There was no cataclysmic event (like the hailstorm of 8 or nine years ago); It was just a slow motion set of problems brought on by too much rain. Looking back on the past weeks boxes I am pleased, considering how MANY large rainfall events that we DID get, that we did pull off a reasonable good tomato harvest and a great pepper harvest.

Now that the end is here I can feel the weight beginning to lift off of my shoulders and I can even start to feel excited about planning for another season of farming (Year 23!). We are pleased that our old field manager will be returning next summer (we have been without one for a few years) and this should free Malena and I up to better focus on problems as they arrive.

Thank You, Again, for Helping us Take Care of these 120 Acres of Planet Earth and For Helping us to Continue to Learn How to Farm in an Ecologically Responsible Way, Mike and Malena





