

Report from the Field

Happy Spring Equinox! On the equinoxes, the day and night are equal, everywhere on the planet. In order to be a little more in tune with the seasons/equinoxes/solstices, we started a primitive sundial. I say primitive, realizing that the builders of sundials 3000 years ago had a much better grasp of the proper methods of constructing sundials than I do. Our sundial is level; most sundials are/were slanted at the same angle as the latitude of the place where they were built, or the gnomon (stick) is slanted. Interestingly, with a plumb stick and a level surface, the tip of the shadow on the equinox forms a straight line (this may be quite intuitive if you have excellent 3D visualization skills, but I had to do the math before the equinox). We scribed a line of where the shadow fell across the stone on the equinox, and we'll do the same at the summer and winter solstices. Please ask if you want to take a look and we'll show you where the stone is.



The longer days are having an invigorating effect on the plants in our greenhouses, in spite of the cold nights. The greens we mentioned in the last newsletter are mostly doing very well. Lettuces, claytonia, spinach, arugula, mustard, and mizuna are all looking beautiful. We have been selling these over the past month to the Willi Coop and Fiddleheads coop in New London. We will finally be selling at the farm this week. We haven't done so before because the snow and ice in our customer parking and walking areas, which made the walkways unsafe. Thank goodness that has finally come to end. Here are a few photos of the greens:

lettuces



lettuces



claytonia



spinach



mustard



arugula



Beets, carrots and peas have also been planted in the greenhouses, and, with good weather, should be ready for the CSA start. It is amazing that these plants will grow, and thrive, even though they've seen nights in the single digits. The peas just started working their way through the soil surface today. Here is photo of one of the sprouts.



There are about 6000 onion plants started in blocks, as well as kale, chard, broccoli, cabbage, collards, and violas. Our tomatoes have also been started, but those are at another farm in a heated greenhouse.

onions



kale



chard



Because of the cold weather, and our goals for getting fruits in the ground, April is going to be a very busy month. One of our large greenhouses will have to be moved so that our tomatoes can be in a new location. This will be our first time moving the greenhouse (below), so it is going to be a fairly involved process. We also need to prepare the ground for our fruit plantings, which is currently being used for cow pasture (pictured below right).



Lastly, our friends Opal and Jasmine are doing well. We don't have lush pasture for them to be eating yet, nor will we for many weeks, but we are still rotating them through pastures so that their manure and urine are evenly distributed, thus fertilizing the land. Opal is pregnant and growing wider by the day on her ration of hay (her due date is early May). We can't wait!

Happy spring.

