

March 21, 2015

Report from the Field

Happy aaa, ummm, Spring Equinox! The wonderfully longer days (12 hours of light!) are an inspiration that someday soon we will not have snow on the ground. Some years we have started planting outside in late February, but this year we won't be able to plant until at least the first week of April. This will mean a little less variety the first few weeks of the CSA, but it should have little impact overall.

In the greenhouses, it looks more like spring. Beets and carrots were planted in January, February and March (here are the girls weeding the beets). These will be ready for harvest in the first few weeks of the CSA. Spinach, claytonia (a salad green loved by all), lettuces and spicy greens are growing; these will be ready well before the CSA begins and after.



Sena & Aiyana weeding beets



Spinach



Claytonia

We have also started onions, 2600 soil blocks, 8000 seeds, in the greenhouse. They have just started to sprout, and will be transplanted into the field (hopefully) in 3-4 weeks.

Next week will mark the true sign that we are gearing up for summer: the tomatoes, peppers and eggplant will be started in a heated greenhouse (someone else's). We start our tomatoes earlier than most farmers, usually getting them in the ground, in our unheated greenhouses by late April or early May. Due to the colder winter and an expectation of a cooler spring than in the past few years, we are starting ours a week later than in previous years to play it safe.



First Onion Sprout

Last year was quite different; here is the [2014 March Newsletter](#).

Moo News

Two of our ladies are pregnant: Opal will be having her 3rd calf in June and Jasmine will be having her 1st in April. We love all three of our cows, even though the 10 month old calf, Olive, has a bit of an adolescent attitude. They all long for you to come over and scratch their neck. Raluca loves the gentle grunts Opal makes: the "uuooowwffff" sound as she is relaxing and chewing her cud. Over the last year Jasmine has turned into a cream puff. She is gentle with all of us, easy to lead, and loves attention. That is why she has been chosen to hopefully be our ox. When there is grass, we move them every day to a new pasture, along with their shelter/milking parlor. If we could get Jasmine to do the moving, that would be great. The photo shows Jasmine learning to wear a yoke.

We were worried that Jasmine wasn't pregnant since she is so small compared to her half-sister, Opal. Opal is round like a huge barrel (even when she isn't pregnant). Happily, in the last few weeks we have been feeling Jasmine's baby kicking. We can't wait for another cute little calf!

The ladies have been doing well at one of their farm jobs: pooping. We are excited that they will become our main source of compost in the next year or so. Opal has also been providing us milk up until a few weeks ago. Her production was starting to wane, so Raluca decided to call it quits for this lactation. We are looking forward to Jasmine's milk!



The Ladies: Opal, Olive and Jasmine Training with Yoke