

October 8, 2015

I really had no interest in writing the boring, end-of-the-season letter that Caroline challenged me with. I thought of some shock factor I could use—curse words and slang to shake things up—but I figured Caroline would ultimately clean it up, as she usually does with things in my life. So maybe I will try to keep it simple.

Without you, the CSA members, this farm does not work. Period. You put your money up front, drive to the farm, and accept the food we work so hard to grow. This is a support we rely on, and we feel if you are willing to support us, we are honored to support you.

There are many players making it happen. Dylan our assistant worked 40 hours a week, never missed a day, battled bouts of poison ivy, working in weather that ranged from extreme dry heat to cold hard rain, and everything in between. Noreen, Tricia, Dina, Jenna, and Steve also worked with us in these conditions and everyone always stayed positive to ensure the job got done. Susan tended to our herb and flower gardens and organized the food coming out of the fields to be ready for pickup, which Ann, George, Arline, and Caroline kept stocked and running smoothly. Lulu and Brian showed up every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, transporting the Makinajian eggs, washing all the produce coming from the fields, and taking care of the beautiful dahlias. Judy gave a hand when needed, took care of the beautiful butterfly garden, and helped with Donna's chickens. Donna and Glenn have always helped when needed in all sorts of ways. George does whatever is needed and has supported this farm with his body and heart for years. Hal and Jay worked continuously on building and maintenance wherever needed. Every Saturday, Jen Wang delivers my family's weekly order of pastured meat and dairy from Pennsylvania, joking that he's the only person he knows who feeds his farmer. Yvette, Josh, and Jesse run the farm stand on Sundays.

The players are many and everyone works hard, but all of us are organized by Caroline. From CSA members to employees to farm stand customers to volunteers, we all gain direction from her. This is a huge task which comes in addition to working full days at the farm, organizing pickups, farm stands, harvests, seeding schedules, and field tasks. The wee hours of the night are for returning email, bookkeeping, payroll, and setting up for the next day, which is only hours away.

Whether a CSA member, farmer, or volunteer, we all choose to support this beautiful place which allows for our children to ride bikes and get educational farm tours and adults to attend workshops, yoga, and live local music. There are pick-your-own herbs, berries, and flowers, and fresh air for everyone. I love that we all appreciate this open space and work so hard to ensure that this symbiotic relationship endures. Thank you all for letting me be a part of this.

Sincerely,
Dan