

# Schreiber & Sons CSA

*It's a Culinary Adventure*

[Schreiberandsons.com](http://Schreiberandsons.com)

April 11th, 2010

**What's Happening at the Farm.** It froze last night, darn it, that is what is happening. It is supposed to be colder tonight. It froze the asparagus, so harvest is delayed. It has virtually stopped most of the seedlings in the field. AAARRRGHHHH, would it please warm up. We are working ground, laying plastic mulch, drip tape and row covers. We are planting seeds, weeding and irrigating. We are working six days a week at the farm and I come in on Sunday's to water.

Here is some important Schreiber & Sons Summer CSA information - read this carefully.

## **Drop Sites**

- 1) Farm
- 2) Pasco - 2921 Road 52, just off of Argent
- 3) Kennewick - we are still working on this one
- 4) North Richland - 2009 Harris Avenue - four blocks east of GW Way and Newcomber-current Winter CSA drop site
- 5) South Richland - 1262 Llandwood, this is just off of Columbia Park trial-current Winter CSA drop site
- 6) West Richland - 610 South 54th Avenue, last year's summer CSA drop off for West Richland
- 7) We are not sure about Connell-we have two members signed up, but we need more members to make it happen.

We would consider additional drop sites, but we need around 20 or so members at a location to make it work. A logical location would be somewhere in the Battelle area, but we have to get a corporate okay and someone to be in charge of the site-which does not take that much.

## **Farmers Markets-Help Needed.**

We raise produce for our CSA members. However, in the course of doing this, there is a lot of produce that is surplus. For example, to give members four bell peppers, it takes hundreds of bell peppers, but at the beginning, end and at the peak of production, there is either too little or too much to give to members, so we need an outlet for this produce. Also, take a crop like eggplant, it is picked twice a week, but trust me, most members only want eggplant every two or three weeks (many of you want it much less than that). So we also need an outlet for some of this type of produce. We hope to address some of this with the Choice Option, but still we need an outlet for surplus produce. That is where the Farmer's Markets come in. We are going to be at the Pasco, Richland and Kennewick Farmer's Markets and we are exploring going to the Pendleton (Friday evening), Walla Walla (Saturday) and Yakima (Sunday) Farmer's Market. We are still looking for someone (more than one person) to work at these latter three markets. Someone could take one, or two or three of these. The person would have to be able to drive a box truck (think of a U-haul truck), be able to interact with the public, think on their feet, be able to be independent and be an honorable and ethical business person. (They also have to be physically fit and able to get up early in the morning). We have some back up people lined up as we know that no one can work every weekend of the growing season-so if you need a weekend off here or there, we can probably accomodate you. The markets run from the first week of June until later in October.

### **The Choice Option.**

One of the most challenging aspect to the CSA is putting a collection of diverse produce into boxes that meet everyone's preferences. We have developed an option which members can choose (for \$60 a season) where you can choose (or choose to avoid) a certain amount of produce. This feature is our attempt to make the box contents fit individual preferences. The way the Choice Option will work is that we will send out on Monday a list of what is expected to be harvested the following week. On this list will be some items that you have to take regardless, but also will contain a list of items from which you can make selections. For example if you have a medium share size you may have a list of 20 items, 8 of which are mandatory, and you get to choose 10 items from the remaining 12. You make your selection of 10 and that will be added to the 8 mandatory items for a total of 18 items and you do not have to take the five items least interesting to you. Hopefully this addresses what I call the *Eggplant Dilemma*. Two years ago, members voted eggplant as their second most favorite item and they also voted it their second least favorite items. Hopefully those who sign up for the Choice Option will be able to get their eggplant or NOT get their eggplant. Doing this requires a fair amount of extra work for us, including hiring a person to work on this three hours a day, so the extra cost is used to pay for the extra work. If you are have a large share or a small share the number of items you get to pick with be larger and smaller, respectively. This is a work in progress, but Tracy and I think this will give members some flexibility that will allow you to get a better selection of produce.

**Marketing.** We got a nice write up Sunday in the Tri-City Herald. But we could still use some help in the marketing department. Schreiber & Sons CSA member Peggy Hamilton emailed us with some nice ideas about marketing. If you have some marketing advice for us, please pass it on as I could use it. As always if there is someone who might like to know about the CSA, feel free to pass on the attached brochure.

Your Farmer,

Alan Schreiber