



# The Farm at Miller's Crossing

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Winter 2008

## From the Farmers...

The ground is frozen, the cows are in the barn, and besides our family's daily walks around the farm, things here are quiet. And we like that. We use this season to recharge our batteries, and take a step back from the trees to try to see the forest. We reflect back on the previous year and attempt to make the changes to our operation that will make life and the harvest better.

2007 will go down as an excellent growing season. Once our crew was in place the weather cooperated and the harvest was great. However, the most memorable and unfortunately the sad event that will mark 2007 in our hearts was the loss of our brother-in-law and dear friend Chris Stearn. After a short battle with cancer, Chris passed away at home with his wife Betsy at his side. Chris' gentle and generous spirit along with his passion for baking, farming, and alternative energy impressed anyone who had the pleasure to know him. This spring we will be planting the wheat seed that he purchased before his passing, and will do our best to carry on his legacy.

We are looking forward to 2008, and the most exciting news is we are expecting our fourth child in May.

There are also changes afoot in our field and CSA planning. Because of crop rotations and family expansion we are regrettably not doing our u-pick garden in 2008. Because Katie will be occupied with a baby in the spring and our u-pick plot could use a change of crops we will take a hiatus from the u-pick. We want to thank those of you who have joined in the past, and we will keep you informed of our plans for 2009 and beyond.

In an effort to diversify our cropping and our marketing we have decided to expand our CSA. Instead of seeking more wholesale business, we are going to expand our markets one family/soup kitchen at a time. In the coming season we will be going into New York City on Mondays to service four soup kitchens and a small CSA. Working through the not-for-profit group Just Food, our farm will be providing weekly deliveries of fresh food to

a central drop point in Long Island City. From there, surrounding soup kitchens will pick up a part of the delivery and distribute it to those in need. In the fields, this CSA expansion will allow us to grow more storage crops like winter squash, carrots, onions, sweet potatoes, and more. We will continue with all of our current wholesale customers, but the CSA expansion felt like the best way forward for our business. With more land committed to CSA crops, we will also aim to have much more storage crops available for our annual November bulk sale, which continues to be very popular. Through our CSA, farmer's markets, and bulk sale we hope to continue to reach out and become an important part of local family's diets and lives. Here's to another great growing season!

Sincerely Chris

### A Change in the Year

**It is the first mild day of March:  
Each minute sweeter than before,  
The redbreast sings from the tall larch  
That stands beside our door.**

**There is a blessing in the air,  
Which seems a sense of joy to yield  
To the bare trees, and mountains bare;  
And grass in the green field.**

-William Wordsworth

### Schedule for 2008

**Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>** Lenox Farmer's Market begins 3-6:30

**Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>** Hudson Market begins 9 – 1:00

**Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>** Trade Secrets Plant Sale Sharon, CT

**Saturday May 24th Plant Sale at Miller's Crossing 9-3**

**Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>** Kinderhook Market begins 8-12

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1st CSA Pick up at Miller's Crossing**

**October 28<sup>th</sup> Last CSA Pick Up**

**November 1<sup>st</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> annual Bulk Sale at Miller's Crossing**