



Weekly News

A late arrival for the tomatoes —blight! ~ Michele Roy

Last Monday we picked a lot of green tomatoes thinking there might be a frost coming that evening. While picking I noticed some not-so-great-looking tomato plants. I didn't get back into the tomatoes until Thursday morning, and by then the somewhat sickly plants were obviously in the throes of full-blown late blight. Yes, it's back.

As horrible as it is, it could have been much, much worse if it had shown up a few weeks ago. I'm hoping that at least some of the green tomatoes we picked Monday will ripen. However, as of yesterday we were starting to find rotting ones in our ripening trays. We will probably put green tomatoes in your share— be aware that they may start rotting if they are indeed infected. You can see what Caitlin's reaction was to finding bad ones in the picture below!

Our cover crop of oats has sprouted on the many beds that we sowed it on. Oats are great, as they will grow right up until



Caitlin and Mike dismantle the backyard tomato patch.



It's back. This is what happens practically overnight when late blight hits. It's the black lesions on the stems that first clued me in that this is indeed late blight and not some other tomato disease.

we get a hard freeze, then die back forming a mulch on top of the bed which protects the soil but is easily removed in the spring.

As you start your fall leaf raking please remember that we would love to have your bagged leaves! We'll have a chicken-wire enclosure near the greenhouse with a sign so you can come dump them anytime. Tell your neighbors! We'd even come and pick them up if they bagged.



October 2nd 11a-7p, Downtown Gardiner
The first annual Swine & Stein Octoberfest is a trifecta of beer, food, and music.

FMI: www.gardinermainstreet.org



We picked lots of green tomatoes when we first began suspecting late blight in the tomato patch, hoping to catch at least some before they got infected. We're already finding infected tomatoes... hopefully some will survive.

Excitement in the pasture at Long Meadow Farm ~ Denis Thoet

We decided to be experimental this year and run the two sheep and one goat in with our two Angus heifers. All went well — almost.

Both Matilda and Fiona took tremendous joy from chasing Ollie (the Angora goat) around, while pretty much leaving Barbara and Sylvie alone. Their fun was interrupted when Matilda gashed her shoulder on the gate post, probably after sniffing the electrified wire above the gateway and bolting.

As soon as Matilda was allowed out of her pen/sickbed three weeks ago, she took off after Ollie, stitches be damned!

Our private theory is that Ollie taunted the heifers across the fence line with comments like, “Where’d you get those ears?” or “I don’t think I’ve ever seen a bigger nose on a barnyard animal!”

Now they have all settled down and will even share a paddock in the late afternoons.

Most recently, a young deer, perhaps a yearling, has been joining our diverse



Ollie's new friend — A young deer appeared in the cow/sheep pasture last week. She seemed to like Ollie the best of all. Photo by Michele

grouping of ruminants, and it is Ollie she hangs with. Ollie stays cool about it, as usual.

MOFGA 5K : We win — again!



Winning kick — Denis Thoet and Heidi Peckham cross the 5K finish line.

For the fourth year in a row, the Long Meadow Farm “Fast Foodies” have won the MOFGA 5K Road race, CSA team division, Sunday at the Common Ground Country Fair in Unity.

With a strong kick at the finish, team members Denis Thoet and Heidi Peckham crossed the finish line with a time of 34 minutes, 20 seconds.

Ms. Peckham, a neighbor and friend down the road from the farm, was drafted by the team after not one farm apprentice or member of the LMF CSA signed up to run.

Nor were there any other CSA teams signed up for the race, as far as we know. Nor are we aware that race officials know of a “CSA division”

“Our strategy was to start slow, and then to get slower,” Thoet said. “Then we would pull it out with a big kick at the end.”

Their winning kick was nearly ruined by a determined young dad with a twin baby carriage that muscled in front of them at the finish line.

“We heard the kids crying so we had to let them through,” Thoet said. “They had a tough race too.”