

TWO TRACKS ACRES NEWSLETTER

May 2015



COWABUNGA

The newest addition to Two Tracks Acres is our first cow, named Short Round. Short Round is a rescue calf who is blind and was having trouble navigating the larger farm where we first met him. Our own space is smaller, and the little guy quickly figured out how to find his way around our barn and fenced in pasture. His cautious exploration of the space was amazing to watch, as he became familiar with the location of the water, the salt lick, his food and the fence by nuzzling about. Short Round is super friendly without being pushy, and will follow us around if we make clicking noises at him. He is a brown and white Guernsey and we are excited to have him.

CHELSEA MARKET

We've started going to Chelsea Market again and it has been very busy so far. In June we expect things to pick up even more when the music and market food assistance token programs, like Double Up Food Bucks, begin. My parents have come to help out a few times, and have made a statement by wearing a unique set of pink pig hats, complete with faces and wings. We tried to make Taik wear them too, but he insisted it would cramp his style. I think the customers really liked them though.



Our garden is alive and well with salad greens, radishes, garlic and more. We are growing mangels this year, a root crop – kind of like a beet – that can get up to two feet long. They are used for feed, and we plan to give them to the pigs this winter.



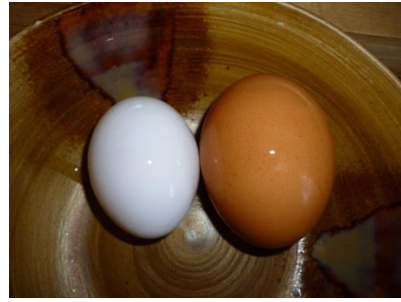
CHESTNUT TREES

We have planted eight new chestnut trees. Part of our long term plan for the farm is to grow as many perennials as we can, and this year's investment was in chestnuts, which were donated to us by MSU extension. If grown from a seedling, they can take about eight years to start producing, but ours were grafted – a chestnut branch attached to an adult root stock – so hopefully they will start producing nuts in 3-4 years. Chestnuts are wind pollinated, rather than pollinated by bees, so we had to be careful to place the pollen producers to the west of the trees that can only receive, and do not produce, the pollen that fertilizes the chestnut flowers. The wind always comes from the west, so we tried to be careful when planning our placement.

(Left: me digging a hole for the chestnut trees)

PICKUP REMINDER – CSA STARTING

Pickup starts the first week of June, Wed 6/3 and Sat 6/6. If you have not yet emailed me your pickup location preference, please let me know soon.



PARTY TIME

Finally, we would like to invite you all out to the farm for a potluck in June! Come see the farm and get to know us better. The potluck will be Saturday afternoon, starting at 5 pm, on June 20. Wear some sturdy shoes so we can walk through the fields and bring a dish to pass around. We are located at:

11845 Orban Rd
Grass Lake MI 49240

Until next time, be well!

-Stephanie and Taik