

## TWO TRACKS ACRES NEWSLETTER

May 2013



### PICKUP LOCATION AND REGISTRATION

Time to sign up for a pickup time and location! The system will be pretty similar to last year's. There will be two possible locations for pickup, and two possible days. Please email me your preference for one of the following:

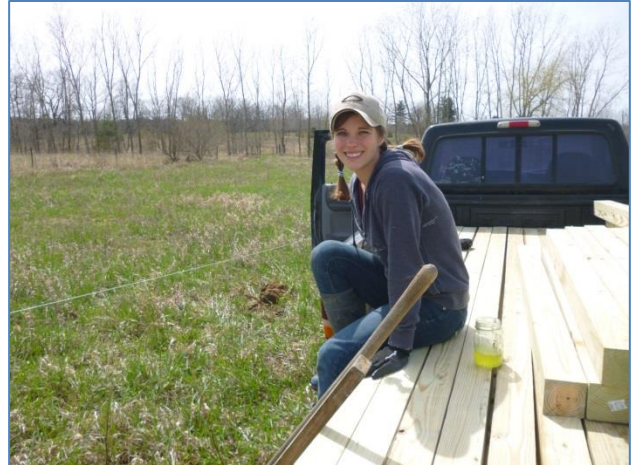
**Wednesday Food Hub 6-8 pm**

**Wednesday Tantre Farm 10 am-5 pm**

**Saturday Food Hub 8 am-noon**

**First pickup begins the final week of May** for those who plan to get their shares on Wednesday. That would be Wednesday, May 29.

For those who choose Saturday, your first pickup will be on Saturday, June 1.



### Instructions and procedures

Like last year, those picking up at Tantre Farm will find their shares in the freezer in Tantre's kitchen, just through the entryway on the right. They will be on the top shelf marked "Two Tracks". The check off sheet will still be in the distro shed behind the house, next to the vegetable check off sheet.

Those picking up at the Food Hub will find their share in the same place as last year as well. This is in the central building with the "Food Hub" sign over the top. Check off sheet will be on the desk near the door, and shares will be in the freezer on the left wall.



The check off sheet will always indicate whether you are receiving chicken or pork for the week. You may also write questions and comments on the sheet and we will be sure to get back to you.



### BARBEQUE AND POTLUCK AT OUR NEW FARM

You are all invited to a get together at our new place on Sunday afternoon, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Food and festivities will begin at 4 pm, and those who are willing workers can help with animals or the garden. Or, just hang out and have fun. Feel free

to bring a dish to share, although we will provide food ourselves. We plan to wrap up the party around 8, and if it rains we'll reschedule. We hope you all can come see what your support has helped us to build – our new home and a beginning. Our address here is 11845 Orban Rd, Grass Lake MI 49240.

## BEES

Taik and I are trying the homesteading thing. We're easing into it, however. We have a little garden going, and are prepared with canning and dehydrating supplies. We also have a huge freezer to store up some of the summer abundance of food for the winter.

Yesterday we added bees to our list of animals here at the farm. I ordered three pounds, which all arrived in a box. We had gotten an empty hive from a local bee keeper at Oak Hill Farm in Manchester, who let us visit and help him split his hives, a process of removing some bees from a healthy colony and introducing them to a new hive, creating two hives. I made my own bars and frames, and placed the box facing south underneath a tree by the garden.

When the bees arrived I didn't have a bee suit. Instead, I borrowed a face net from a friend and suited up in my rain gear. I was a little nervous because to get the bees from the box to the hive, you have to tip the box over and shake them out. This I did, and they slid into their new home. I carefully took the queen – which comes in a small, separate wire box – and poked a hole through the spun sugar plug to make an opening for her. She and the other bees will eat the rest of the plug until she can crawl out. The opening and the wire mesh of her box also allow the bees to get used to her scent and recognize her as their queen. I placed her box between the frames and put the lid on top. In a week, I will check on them and make sure she is laying eggs.

My rain gear worked well, and I didn't even get stung. It takes a while for a new colony to get established, so I don't know if we will have honey this first year. But we will have plenty of pollination, and hopefully the hive becomes strong and survives the winter.



Bee Well!