

April 19, 2007

Hello,

Well, spring has sprung with yo-yo weather, cool and windy with some nice days. Hopefully soon it will warm and then get hot. A special "Thank you" to Garland Mayfield for allowing us to have the Dos Palos drop at his Farmers Insurance office.

We want to tell you little about our staff. Jesus has been with us for over six years. He lives on the ranch and is our key person. He drives tractor, planting working, soil amendments, composting, applies rock dust and micro nutrients, and irrigates, a jack of all. Sylvia has worked as a seasonal worker for several years. She does seed planting and greenhouse chores but most important she is a very important part of our harvest team for the heirloom tomatoes. She teaches and watches over the harvest to ensure we only pack the tomatoes at their best. It is a very difficult job because of the colors and size differences of the tomatoes. Her crew always does a great job.

Our new international intern Sara Soto is from Lima, Peru. She is part of the MESA program out of Oakland. We have had interns from France, Ecuador, Lithuania, and Chile from the MESA program. They live on the farm until late fall then returning taking back their experiences and knowledge. We are also hosting biology major from Duke University. She will be coming late May. Her goal is to learn to farm organically. She will be joining the Peace Corps later in the fall and feels that the experience at the farms will help prepare her for the future.

This week we are sourcing product from David Silveira Farms from Atwater. We got some Chandler strawberries, leaf lettuce, romaine hearts, and cauliflower. David does a 75 member CSA in Merced and Modesto, so if you know people interested let him know. Our Astro arugula, white Russian kale and Lecanto kale is really tasty.

The white, yellow, bi-colored sweet corn is coming out of the ground. Maybe by 4th of July we'll have some sweet corn, tree fruit and heirloom tomatoes. We also planted several varieties of melons and watermelons. Green beans are up but it is really cool for them. The squash just doesn't know what to do.....

Oh, also Will is really a big help after school with irrigation, greenhouse, and its really fun to have Anna help filling and delivering the boxes after school, all this help really makes a great time.

Farmer John & Shelby