



The Season is Underway

This is our first newsletter of the year and we have to tell you, it's already getting busy around here. It's mid-February and everybody must be getting the itch for spring, because our CSA Shares are going fast.

If you've thought about signing up and have not yet sent your deposit and contract, now is the time to do it. Please remember, we need to have both the contract and the deposit in order to guarantee your share and space is limited.

Has the farm received your payment?

For those of you that opt to make payments on your shares, we want to be sure there is no confusion around those payments. Even though we may provide a "suggested" payment schedule on your invoice for your convenience, you are welcome to pay on any

schedule you wish as long as payment in full is made by the deadline. We will send monthly statements on any unpaid balances, but we do not routinely confirm receipt of payments after your initial sign up unless there is a question or you request a receipt.

That said, we are always happy to answer questions, clarify your account or provide confirmation of receipt of payment if you'd like ... please don't hesitate to ask. If you want confirmation, simply write "confirm receipt" on your payment or send us an email.

What's Happening

Have you been keeping up with Karin's blog on our website? The most recent posting talks about our attempt this year at growing eggplant for you. It's not an easy undertaking ...

go to www.nvranch.info/wordpress or go to our home page and click on the Blog link.



Read more about this versatile crop below.

What's Coming Next

We'll be providing more information about planting, egg production, meat processing and more in each newsletter.

Once the harvesting begins we'll be posting that week's harvest online in the newsletter area. Check at the beginning of the week to see what you'll be getting fresh from the farm!

The Incredible, Edible Eggplant

The eggplant is a food crop closely related to the tomato and potato and grown for its large, pendulous purple fruit. Native to India and Sri Lanka, it was given its common name in the United States because the fruits of some 18th century European cultivars were yellow or white and resembled goose eggs.

Here in the U.S. we're accustomed to the purple, almost black, version of the fruit and a few varieties of white. In India, however, the varieties are vast and colors range from white to yellow to green to black. Some gradually go from white at the stem to bright pink at the base. Others have stripes.

Eggplant can be cooked in numerous ways. Some of the traditional and most

popular dishes include ratatouille, mousaka and eggplant parmigiana. Eggplant are versatile enough to be grilled, stuffed, deep-fried, or mashed.

If we're lucky enough to cultivate these beauties for you this year, we'll be sure to include some of our favorite recipes (sliced and fried is always a comfort food!) both in our newsletter and on our website.

What the Almanac Says:

- *Some of the coldest temperatures of this winter will occur in mid-February*
- *February's temperatures will be about 3 degrees below average*
- *February's precipitation will be average levels, about 1.5"*