

FRIENDSHIP FARMS & FARE
FARM REPORT & NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 20, 2014 – 3RD 2014-2015 FARM & CSA REPORT

REPORT

62 degrees at 2:30 AM, October 18, 2014

Historical Average (for 10/17): 84 HIGH, 68 LOW–Weather Underground:

<http://www.wunderground.com/>

The historical average high temperature is now 84 degrees (fourteen degrees higher than the lowest average high [70]). Our average low is now 68 degrees (seventeen degrees higher than the lowest average low [51]). The average high and average low are in their annual decline, which will continue through the fall, and then begin a gradual ascent in the early winter (late January).

Note: For the past few years, our summer and fall highs and lows have typically run a bit higher than historic averages. Thus far this year, the trend has continued. The higher temperatures stress even hot-weather summer crops. Our development of seed stock from plants grown in these above normal temperatures may result in plants more tolerant of the increasingly harsh climate.

Programs and Plans
Our 5th Year

Thanks to everyone who has renewed. Your support is empowering and encouraging. If you have any questions, send us a message, and we'll answer or clarify.

So far, we have ten shares. There is still one share from last year that has not contacted us about renewing for 2014-2015. We are still aiming to have 12 shares in the coming year, which is about what we'd need to break even.

We often receive questions about the Friendship Farms & Fare project. We are happy to send an information brochure with details on our mission and our various programs. Here is a brief sketch of our programs:

We offer heirloom organic **seeds**, including seeds from plants acclimated to local climate and soils. We have a good stock of several types of okra (including the much desired Red Burgundy), robust arugula, and our famous Calabrese Broccoli. Friendship Farms & Fare is a licensed seed dealer in the State of Florida, and a member of Seed Savers Exchange (with several listings in the SSE Yearbook). Later this year, in cooperation with local markets, we will begin offering an extensive line of Seed Savers organic seeds.

Organic **seedlings** are available throughout each growing season. We use our own seeds from previous years whenever possible, and otherwise, we use only organic seeds and heirloom varieties when available. We never use seeds from for-profit seed sellers, and we do not offer seedlings grown from such seeds. Friendship Farms & Fare is a licensed nursery in the State of Florida.

A developing area of our mission, is our **fruit tree project**. At present, we offer loquat and avocado trees, with a few native flowering shrubs. We are a state-registered nursery, and among a small number of nurseries in the region offering loquat trees. We also are pleased to host (along with Ecology Florida) the Florida Loquat Festival, held each spring in New Port Richey.

Our original project, and still our central focus is a **Community Supported Agriculture** program. This is a small (“boutique”) CSA, featuring organic produce from our gardens and local cottage industry foods. We are 100% organic and have a no-kill policy. Our program is recommended for single persons, couples, or (at most) three-person families.

When quantities are sufficient, we offer produce to the general public through **local markets**, such as Tasty Tuesdays and Market Off Main in New Port Richey. Folks can also make requests through our website. Non-members can request any and all items on the share list for \$20.

Our newest project is a **community garden**, dedicating a portion of the 3F farm for use by others in the community. The community garden is located in New Port Richey, and operates through the City's urban agriculture ordinance. The 3F community garden follows the standard policies of Friendship Farms & Fare. We are 100% organic, non-GMO, and have a no-kill policy. With the exception of the predatory Marine Toad, no animals are harmed on our farm. We follow permaculture principles, and working with and within our natural systems.

If you would like to know more about any of these programs or would like to volunteer to share in our mission, just let us know. Folks interested in the Friendship Farms & Fare project can contact us through our website. <http://www.ffffsite.org/> See the "Let's Talk" section for an email connection.

Contributions to Friendship Farms & Fare are now tax-deductable. If you would like to offer financial support, your contributions will be a wonderful enhancement to our project – and they will be tax deductible.

Weekly Weather Report **Cool and Dry**

Last Week (10/11-10/17): This past week brought our first sustained cool weather of the fall. The front pushed through behind two waves of heavy rain. All told, we received two inches in less than 24 hours. By Wednesday (10/15) the first effects were noticeable, and by Thursday we had our first genuine fall day – cool and dry.

The highest high for last week was 90 and the lowest high was 81. The highest low was 74 and lowest low was 68. The lower temperatures are a bit below normal, which is most welcome.

This Week (10/18-10/24): WU is forecasting near normal temperatures and dry conditions. Highs will be in the lower 80s and lows in the mid-60s. Tropical activity in the Bay of Campeche may impact our weather late in the week.

With dry conditions forecast, gardeners and farmers in the area should plan to irrigate most days.

Looking Ahead: We are now definitely into the dry season, with average rainfall amounting to .06 of an inch per day. Most days will be dry, and humidity will be low.

Average temperatures will continue to drop. By the end of October, historical average highs will be 81 degrees and lows will be in the mid-60s. Averages are not good guides, but we are currently running close to historical averages.

Garden Overview **Fall Planning and First Plantings** **(additional details and assessments follows)**

As noted previously, shares are relatively light in October. We have arugula and the first small shares of collards. We might have enough late-season eggplant for most shares, but we cannot guarantee. Sweet potatoes and leaves are on last call. We probably won't have any after this week. Okra is unlikely, and we'll have last call on that next week.

See the Share Report for all items.

In this transitional period, harvests are light. This will continue until the end of the month. Rick Martinez reported that his seedlings were washed out or stunted and his farm (Sweetwater in Tampa) is about two weeks behind schedule. So are we – but we are beginning to catch up.

We stated a lot of seeds, and accelerated our planting of seedlings. This will be our most extensive planting. We are going heavier on the cool-weather greens than we have in the past, and aiming to have at least 100 each of kale, collards, and swiss chard. We are aiming for 250 broccoli. We'll forego cauliflower, and go heavy on broccoli.

We have planted most of the kale shared by Cindy of Cadle's Cove Farm. Some are doing better than others. Here is a link to Cadle's Cove: <http://ceeceesfarm.locallygrown.net/>

We are beginning to recover from our early challenges. We have installed kales and collards, which are maturing nicely. Swiss chard is still lagging a bit, although the Five Color and Ford Hook Giant are showing signs of health and happiness. As expected, the famous Calabrese is doing well. Arugula is thriving.

Tomatoes will be testers only, and only in set asides in the South Garden. Septoria has just been too hard on our tomatoes in previous years. For all plantings, we'll use seeds from our collection or heirloom seeds from Seed Savers Exchange (<http://www.seedsavers.org/>).

However, rather than the cooling and drying conditions we should have had, we continued to experience full-on summer weather patterns – heat, humidity, and heavy rains.

As recommend by the Florida Department of Agriculture, and various commercial planting guides, we started seedlings of fall and winter crops in early September. We lost most of the seedlings due to "new normal" heat stress and near-record rainfall. In recent years, September and October have been too hot for cool weather crops to develop. The new climate-change weather renders current planting calendars obsolete. We need new and revised planting guides that take into account climate change.

Kale

Kale is coming along slowly, but we should have some leaves in a week or so. We started more seeds this week, and installed most of the remaining seedlings received from Cadle's Cove Farm.

Collards

So far, Georgia Southern Collards are the trendsetters for the fall garden. Plants established before the first wave of rain and "new normal" heat are now producing leaves large enough to harvest. Vates collards are developing more slowly.

Swiss Chard

Some of the swiss chard is starting to leaf out. It looks like it might be a couple more weeks before we have enough to harvest, but the cooler temperatures may accelerate growth. 5-Color chard is out pacing the others.

Broccoli

Our first broccoli seedlings, seedlings, and starts were largely washed out. Only eight starts are still in the gardens. To get back to where we should be, we have started nearly 200 seeds in the past 10 days. The first substantial seeding had 100% germination.

Spinach

We'll start spinach this week.

Blackberries Ouachita Family

We finished the blackberry grove this past week. These are Ouachita Blackberries shared lovingly by Christine Grovenstein of Seeds of Love Organic Farm.

Habanero Peppers

Habanero peppers continue to thrive. We have four habanero shrubs, and always have dozens of fruit ready to harvest.

If anyone has a relationship with a restaurant whose chefs want to use a local organic searing-hot pepper, we'll be happy to supply for a reasonable contribution -- \$1.00 per pepper.

Hart's Family Hot Sauce Ready for the Willing

Ray (of Hart's Family Gardens) has brewed this season's first batch of habanero pepper sauce. We sampled it, and found it quite tasty, but HOT. Use in moderation. The sauce is made with various peppers (chiefly habaneros) organic vodka, and apple cider vinegar. That's it! It is all organic, with only local peppers. It may be too hot for some palate. All peppers are from Hart's Family Gardens or Friendship Farms & Fare.

If you would like to try a bottle, just let us know. A donation of \$5.00 will be received for a 5oz. bottle.

Bell Peppers

Bell peppers will not be available this week. We'll start seeds this week.

Tomatoes

We'll try a few tomato varieties this fall, but increasingly it looks like peppers are a more reliable crop. Here is a YouTube video from a avid video gardeners with 10 reasons why he suggests focusing on peppers rather than tomatoes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rRf3zIGLY>

Eggplant

We are listing eggplant again this week, but it won't be with us much longer. A number of plants are setting fruit. There continues to be abundant flowers on all the plants (more than at anytime during the summer), but many of the flowers are not maturing into fruit. We will probably have some small ones this week. Include in your share request if you like, but we cannot guarantee supply. Look for eggplant for another week or so.

Purslane

Purslane continues to thrive, although it has passed its warm weather prime. There is plenty available.

Viticulture (Grape) News

All vines have been cut back to primary stems, and all are putting forth new leaves. We'll monitor for the dreaded skeletonizers, although their season as passed.

Loquat Budding

Exciting News About Two Young Trees

As first noted five weeks ago, our loquat trees have early buds, including our young trees (less than three years old), which were grown from seeds of our existing trees. There are more buds on the trees this year than we've ever seen before, and now some of the buds have formed flowers.

A third young tree has now started budding.

It is likely that these buds will transition to fruit, although no fruit is yet evident. It does seem early, and we are concerned by the total absence of bees, but the sheer volume of flowers and buds suggests that these are genuine fruit-buds.

It remains to be seen if the young trees will produce fruit, but if they do, they will be true champions, sharing their first harvest two full years earlier than the earliest possible date given in the literature. This will definitely be something to celebrate – and publicize!

Okra

Gradually, the okra plants are perishing. There are fewer each week.

This past week we harvested $\frac{3}{4}$ pound, bringing our total for the season to **97** lbs., total. Last year we harvested a total of 31 pounds. We will probably just miss our target of 100 lbs, but this is still an impressive harvest.

Next week will be the last call, unless something dramatic happens. Harvests have dropped off dramatically. We'll make special note of the last harvest of the season. The first, by the way, was June 1 – a Hill Country Red. So, we can safely note that okra produces for four solid months (June 1 to October 1).

Shares should not count on okra in the coming weeks, but feel free to request it. If we have enough, we'll include in the shares. All plants still with us are being saved for seeds, edible pods are now accidental. Good, but accidental.

Sweet Potatoes Harvest Continues

We harvested **18 $\frac{1}{2}$** lbs of sweet potatoes this week. The total harvest is now **231 $\frac{1}{2}$** lbs.

This is the last call for sweet potatoes and SP leaves. We had a wonderful season. Last year, we harvested 150 lbs of SPs. This year, we are aiming at 250 lbs., and we will probably come close to that.

We have one more bed and an accidental bed on the south knoll. Those will probably give us our 250 lbs.

Sweet Potato Leaves

SP leaves are still available but this is the last call for them.

Cat Briar (Smilax)

Smilax is closed for the season. We removed brush from the old citrus grove, and with it went the smilax vines. Do not be concerned, the roots are very strong and healthy, and by next spring we will have plenty of smilax.

Eggs Now Available Suncoast Acres Poultry Farm

We have found a local fowl and egg farm, and acquired our first share of eggs. Initial reports on the eggs are positive, and we are making arrangements with the farm for a regular supply. All indications are that the farm family we have met looks after their animals with interest and care.

The farm is called "Suncoast Acres Poultry Farm," in Spring Hill, just south of the Hernando County line. Be advised, the family raises chickens, ducks, turkeys, and rabbits for human consumption. In addition to chicken eggs, they also have duck and turkey eggs.

If you would like to sample duck or turkey eggs, let us know.

Chicken eggs are \$6.50 a dozen (\$5.00 for shares), and \$4.00 a half-dozen (\$3.00 for shares). These prices are a bit higher than prices for organic eggs at commercial grocers. Acquiring eggs from a local farm (Suncoast Acres Poultry Farm) keeps resources in our community, supports local farming, and directly benefits a local farm family.

Let us know if you would like to tour Suncoast Acres Poultry Farm. We are planning to take a tour, and would welcome any shareholders who would like to join the tour.

Honey: Local honey is again available. Our bee husbander, Robert, has been very successful with recent harvests. We support Robert's work, which is as much about sustaining and regenerating bee populations as it is about honey distribution. Robert's bees live in West Pasco County, near New Port Richey, they pollinate wild flowers, domestic fruit trees, and vegetables. Honey is available in 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 a bottle, \$5.50 for CSA Shares.

Herbs: Tarragon is thriving, along with rosemary. Basils are a bit weak, but we have Italian and Lemon in quantity. Consult the share list for other herbs, and other available items.

Tampa deliveries will be Wednesday this week. West Pasco deliveries will be determined on the basis of share request and distance, no later than Tuesday morning.

Shareholders can call your farmer directly. If you are not a shareholder, and would like to schedule a visit to the gardens or to acquire seeds, seedlings, plants, or produce, please use the address on the website to contact us. <http://www.fffsite.org/#!contact/cl4l>

For this week, here is what we have (FCFS, as always):

THE SHARE

October 20, 2014 (3)

*** larger quantity available if desired**

FCFS = limited supplies, early submissions given preference

Tampa Transmissions TBA

Vegetables

Arugula (small quantities)

Bell Peppers (possible) small-medium (FCFS)

Collards (small quantities)

Eggplant (small) (possible) (FCFS)

Okra (small quantities) (last call)

Peppers – Habanero* – very hot

Sweet Potatoes (last call)

Sweet Potato Leaves (last call)

Fruit -

Kumquat – Nagami (tart) (small quantities, "sample size")

Fungus/Mushrooms –

Nuts – none this week

Roots – none this week

Herbs (* larger quantity available if desired)

Basil – Lemon

Basil – Cinnamon

Basil – Italian

Basil – Globe

Basil – medley (mix of all basil)

Chives

Cilantro

Oregano

Parsley

Purslane

Rosemary*

Tarragon*

Thyme

Cottage Foods & Samples

Hart's Habanero Hot Sauce, 5oz. bottle (suggested donation \$5.00)

- Very Hot

COMPANION FAUNA

Bat update: No bats at the lodge this week. None overhead at twilight.

Honey Bees: Three observed this week. This continues to be a concern. We have an abundance of loquat buds right now, and bees are usually just as abundant. There are also flowers on many native plants in the gardens – lantana, golden dewdrop, salvia, porter weed, and begger's ticks.

Two of the three bees were at cisterns, acquiring water. The third appeared to be harvesting moisture from freshly turned mulch. None were at flowers.

It is possible that the release of commercial/residential "home and garden" insecticides containing neonicotinoids are destroying our once abundant honey bee populations. This is just a guess offered in an effort to understand what has happened to these important companions to human life.

"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man."

– attributed to Albert Einstein.

Please do not purchase or use insecticides with neonicotinoids. Here are three reliable sources on the neonicotinoids, and the commercial "home and garden" insecticides that contain them.

<http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/>

http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/NeonicsSummary_XercesSociety.pdf
http://www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Are-Neonicotinoids-Killing-Bees_Xerces-Society1.pdf

Leopard Frogs: None observed.

Florida Black Snake: One young black snake the black berry grove.

Earth Worms: None observed.

Sphinx Moth: No sphinx this week. Here is Youtube video of a Sphinx Moth feeding at 4 o'clocks, very much like the moth at the 3F farm. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaTfKLO96gE>

Pygmy Rattlesnake: No pygmy rattler this week. Here is a good site on the pygmy rattlesnake from the University of Florida: <http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/pdfs/Pygmy%20Rattlesnake%20Info%20Sheet.pdf>

Grapeleaf Skeletonizer: No GS caterpillars observed on leaves of one vine. See report in [Viticulture \(Grape News\)](#) section. Here is a link to a site with good information and images of the Skeletonizer: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/fruit/grapeleaf_skeletonizer.htm

Southern Toad: No toads this week.

Swifts: None observed, although the lodge is again busy with sounds of life.

Tree Frogs: Abundant and busy. More egg clutches, and tadpoles.

Greenhouse Frog: This fall and winter friend is now appearing regularly. Several observed in the main nursery area and in planters in the south garden

Nocturnal Garden Spider – Many in both gardens.

Sweet bees: Several in Hart's Family Garden and the Friendship Farms gardens.

"Asian Tramp Snail." The snails are uncommon now. Only a few were observed. It is likely that their heavy season is the Spring. We will continue to monitor these creatures.

Mediterranean Gecko: Two observed this week – one young gecko captured a moth while we observed. Here is a good site for the Mediterranean Gecko, and Florida fauna in general: <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/reptiles/mediterranean-gecko/>

Southern Ringneck Snake: Not observed this week. Here is a site on the Southern Ringneck Snake from the Florida Museum of Natural History and the University of Florida: <https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herpetology/fl-guide/Diadophispunctatus.htm>

Marine Toad (aka: Brazilian Cane Toad, *Rhinella marina*, Giant Toad): Small toad in north pond. Toad was not captured.

Marine Toads are destructive of ecosystems and poisonous to mammals. They are omnivorous, aggressive, and drive out native and assimilated frogs and toads. A survey of several professional sites found none that recommended killing the frogs, although this has been advocated by several folks in the area.

Here is the Extension Office's website on the Marine Toad (which includes an audio of its call): http://www.wec.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/frogstoads/rhinella_marina.php

Here is a very detailed, professional study of the Marine Toad, also from the Extension Office. This site has instructions for humane euthanizing of the creatures:

http://www.egovlink.com/public_documents300/winterhaven/published_documents/Winter%20Haven/Lakes/Backyard%20Wildlife/Animal%20Information/Frogs%20and%20Toads/Marine%20Toads%20UW04600.pdf

Woodlouse – A few in various locations.

Raccoon: No raccoon activity this week.

Opossum: None observed. Observers were absent for the week.

Tomato Pinworm: None observed. The season for these eggplant-loving moth larvae may have passed.

For information on pinworms, see this University of Florida site:

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/tomato/tomato_pinworm.htm

Cats: Neighborhood cat, Frankie, appears regularly. She has a kind disposition and has lived in the neighborhood for nearly a decade.

3F Stories, Events, and Policy Updates

Planting & Harvest Notes Start of Fall Seeding

Seedings: Kale (Red Russian, 82); Broccoli, 85; Swiss Chard (Fordhook Giant, 38)

Garden Starts: Kale, broccoli, swiss chard, collards

Harvest Notes: okra, sweet potatoes, herbs, arugula, eggplant, collards

Vermipost: no harvest

Bat Guano: no harvest (no bats)

Next Workday: TBA

If you would like to join us for a fall workday, we'll have a lot to do. Please send your best Saturday(s) in November.

Nursery Certification and Registration Friendship Farms & Fare 48015239

Friendship Farms & Fare is a registered nursery in the state of Florida. Our registration number is 48015239.

In accord with state regulations, our nursery was inspected in April. Mr. Daniel Merced from the Florida Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant & Apiary Inspection conducted the review.

Mr. Merced gave the nursery a very positive evaluation, and recommended the 3F Nursery for certification and registration. We have now received the official documentation. While with us, Mr. Merced also inspected our groves, and offered extremely helpful insights into citrus growing, and the conditions of our trees. Interestingly, Merced discovered Asian Citrus Psyllids on every citrus tree in our grove – that's the transporter of Citrus Greening. More interesting, perhaps, he detected no Greening in any of the young trees planted in the New South Grove in January, 2013. Your Farmer (now technically and officially a "Nurseryman") learned a great deal about identifying specific challenges citrus trees may face and treatments for these challenges.

Our successful pursuit of certification and registration is another step in the development of the Friendship Farms and Fare sustainable urban agriculture project. As most of you know, we are already a registered seed seller. The nursery certification is an important expression of our farm's mission and our commitment to responsible community development.

If you would like to support the work of Friendship Farms and Fare and help us cover expenses related to the project, please feel free to share a contribution. Friendship Farms and Fare operates under the umbrella of Ecology Florida, a not for profit corporation, so your contributions are tax deductible.

**2014-2015 Renewal
Seed Dealer License & Registration
Friendship Farms & Fare
S009451**

3 F is a licensed Seed Dealer. We just renewed our license with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which issues these licenses that are required to sell seeds to the public. Through our friendship with Ecology Florida, we applied for the license as a subsidiary of Ecology Florida – a federally sanctioned Not For Profit organization. Want to buy some seeds? To explore the Ecology Florida project, see: <http://www.ecologyflorida.org/>

**The Florida Loquat Festival: Celebrating Florida's Urban Fruit
April 5, 2014
Market Off Main, New Port Richey**

<http://www.ecologyflorida.org/2014/03/florida-loquat-festival-celebrating-floridas-urban-fruit/>
<http://tbo.com/Local/CommunityNews/festival-to-promote-little-known-loquat-tree-20140319/>

The first annual Florida Loquat Festival was a great success. Hundreds attended the festival. Fruit, trees, and preserves were sold or shared for donations. The educational program was well received. Folks are already looking forward to next year's festival.

Friendship Farms and Fare Pursues Non-GMO and USDA Organic Certification

As a matter of policy, Friendship Farms and Fare opposes the use of GMOs in food. We are exploring Non-GMO certification for our First Farm in New Port Richey, and possibly Tarry Lane Kitchens. We have the application in hand, and will be submitting it in the near future. Of course, we have never used GMO seeds or products containing GMOs, so you can rest assured that even without the certification, everything we share is free of GMOs.

We have also taken the initial steps to secure USDA Organic certification. The cost for USDA assessment (with no guarantee of approval) will be between \$950 and \$1300 depending on how much of the 3F project we desire to have assessed. As with our non-GMO commitment, we are fully committed to organic farming.

Community Garden Project at New South Garden

We are ready to receive applications for our community garden project. Folks interested in acquiring a plot can contact us through the 3F site.

Shareholders interested in acquiring a plot may participate for reduced rates.

We have installed sample community garden beds. Each is (108 sq feet) 12 x 9 or 18 x 6.

Farm and Fare Tours (Local Urban Gardens and Organic Kitchen)

If you would like to schedule a tour local urban gardens in New Port Richey and/or the 3F Kitchen (Tarry Lane Tasting Station), please let us know, and we can make arrangements. Our tours are experiential, informational, educational, and fun. Donations are greatly appreciated.

Typically, and depending on the season, participants visit several urban farms, learn about organic farming in an urban environment using permaculture philosophies and practices, observe and learn about urban wildlife and helpful plants, enjoy samples of live produce, and share in the preparation of the vegan cuisine. Tours are structured on the basis of participants' interests and background. We can also arrange focused learning sessions at the Gardens and/or the Kitchens.

Please note that an appropriate contribution for the tours and learning sessions will be suggested when tours are scheduled.

There are four categories of tours:

- * Urban Farming, Gardening and Soil development
- * Urban wildlife and helpful plants (note if you desire a bat observation, which requires special scheduling)
- * Vegan, Organic food preparation
- * General (including two or more categories)

Please note that an appropriate contribution for the tours and learning sessions will be suggested when tours are scheduled.

3F: A Florida Friendly Farm

The 3 F gardens are certified as a "Florida Friendly" environment – a certification we have held for over a decade.

Florida Friendly recognition is given to environments (typically residential yards) that support and enhance natural ecosystems. Certification is given in three categories (bronze, silver, and gold) based on a point system rating various features of the property and practices followed by the property owner. We received a high score but only a silver rating because of some changes in the program of which we were unaware.

Attention is given to features such as water-retention, native and drought tolerant plants, diversity in plant species, responsible irrigation systems, and amenities for native pollinators. Positive practices include minimal use of fertilizers (with organic preferred) and little or no use of poisons, groundcovers rather than turf, composting, and rainwater collection systems.

We encourage all our members and friends to pursue Florida Friendly designation for their properties. It is a wonderful way to learn more about Florida's natural ecology and what you can do to create a healthy environment right where you live. It is also a great way to go green.

Folks who wonder what they can do be more environmentally responsible are encouraged to review the Florida Friendly checklist. If you can change even one thing about your yard or your landscape practices to bring it into agreement with the guidelines, you will have made a difference. Even if you do not apply for the designation, reviewing the criteria will be an enriching educational experience. Putting the guidelines into practice will make a definite difference. Here is the website for the program:

Other News and Reports

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COMMERICAL PRODUCE REPORT

Our Commercial Produce News Report is currently in repose.
We will resume when time and talent allow.
If anyone would like to volunteer to collect market prices, please let us know.

OTHER PRODUCTS FOR THE CSA FAMILY

3F Produce for non-shareholders: Non-Members may order shares for \$20 per week, or \$50 per month. For this amount, contributors may request any and all items they desire from the weekly Share. Although we will assist with transmissions, it is the responsibility of the contributor to make arrangements for pick up of the share.

As always, non-CSA Members may request single items from the share list for \$5 per item. A full share for one week (any/all items) is \$20, and \$50 for one month. Annual shares are recommended, at \$300 per year. Five month shares are \$200.

Just reply using the website contact link if you desire anything on the list. We suggest non-shareholders start an account to cover costs of items.

EGGS. Prices are \$6.50 a dozen (\$5.00 for shares), and \$4.00 a half-dozen (\$3.00 for shares). These prices are a bit higher than prices for organic eggs at commercial grocers. Acquiring eggs from a local farm (Suncoast Acres Poultry Farm) keeps resources in our community, supports local farming, and directly benefits a local farm family.

As required by our policies, our supplier is local, follows organic principles, practices compassionate husbandry, and allows chickens free range. If you would like to be included on the egg list, please start an account (\$20 suggested), and make requests accordingly. Eggs are from humanely treated chickens, and fed non-GMO feed.

Honey: Local West Pasco honey is available in 8 oz. bottles for \$7.00 (\$5.50 for shares).

Seeds: If you would like organic vegetable seeds for your garden, we will order them for you. Seed packs are \$4.00 each, 2 for \$7.00, and 5 for \$14.00. Just tell us what you'd like. Be sure to send your mailing address. No charge for shipping.

Seedlings: We are also happy to start plants for you. Just give us the word on the plants you want us to start, and we'll do the rest. Starter plants in cells are \$1.50 per plant (\$1, for shares), \$5.00

(\$4) for four, \$8.00 (\$7.00) for nine. When available, small plants are \$3.00 (\$2.40) each, and medium plants are \$5.00 (\$4).

Let us know if you want to acquire seeds or starts for the Fall.

Trees: Young Loquat trees are available in small (half-gallon) and medium (gallon) pots - \$10.00 (\$8.00 for shareholders). \$20 (\$18) for two-gallon pots. Larger trees in five-gallon pots are \$50 to \$70, depending on the size of the tree.

Vermipost and Worms: For folks interested in organic gardening, we have the best all-natural soil amenities you can find: Vermipost and Worms! Vermipost is compost that has been broken down and enriched by Red Worms. We also have the worms themselves. **Vermipost** is available in 32 oz containers for \$2.50 each (\$2.00 for shareholders), with discounts for orders of five or more. Vermipost containers will most likely have some worms in the mix. We recommend mixing the vermipost 1 to 1 with regular soil, and 1 to 3 or 4 with organic soil. Remember, if you use synthetic chemicals (such as fertilizers or pesticides), the vermipost will be compromised. Pesticides will kill the worms and synthetic fertilizers will kill the worms or drive them away.

Worms are available in 32 oz containers for \$7.50 (\$6 for shareholders). We cannot specify the exact number of worms in a container, but there should be 30-50. By the way, if you are developing an organic garden, always look for the OMRI seal of approval on fertilizers, soils, and insect deterrents.

Seeds: Shareholders are entitled to samples of seeds from our seed bank – three types of okra and our famous Calabrese broccoli. Our seeds are organic and derived from heirloom stock. They are listed with Seed Savers Exchange, and also available at the New Port Richey Library Seed Exchange. Let us know if you are interested – additional packages of seeds for \$4.00 (\$3.00) a packet (of 30). We cannot guarantee germination, but in our tests germination rates are close to 100%.

Heirloom, organic seeds from Seed Savers Exchange are \$4.00 each (\$3.00 for shares).

Florida Central West Coast acclimated Okra Seeds offered by 3F are: Silver Queen, Star of David, Red Burgundy, and Hill Country Red.

Local Markets and Growers' Sites Open to the Public Endorsed by Friendship Farms & Fare

Market Off Main: We encourage members of the TBN G&G CSA to patronize the Market Off Main in New Port Richey, and other local produce markets. They often have organics, usually have local produce, are locally owned, and are now a distributor of Cow Pots. Here is their website: <http://www.marketoffmain.com/>

Tasty Tuesdays: Visit the New Port Richey Library Tuesday (10:00 AM – 12:00 noon) for a good selection of locally grown organic vegetables. [New Port Richey Public Library, 5939 Main St, New Port Richey, FL](#)

Freedom House Farms: Open to visitors on Saturday afternoons. Featuring freshly harvested produce available for purchase. 5642 Virginia Ave., New Port Richey

First Farm: Receptive to visitors on Sunday afternoons. Featuring seeds, seedlings, Loquat trees, and select produce in season. Call for appointment afternoons or evenings: (727) 849-1626. New Port Richey.

To Return to our website, go to: < <http://www.ffsite.org> >

Friendship Farms & Fare

An Urban Farm Community, CSA, Seed Saver, Community Garden, and purveyor of seeds, seedlings, fruit trees, and organic cottage-industry foods.

Friendship Farms & Fare Community

Cadle's Cove Farm

Freedom House Farm

Friendship Farms & Fare: First Farm

Hart's Family Farm

Seeds of Love Organic Farm

Tarry Lane Tasting Station

October 20, 2014 – 3rd report for the 2014-2015 Garden Year

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