

# Freedom Organix

Harvard IL 60033

Local ♦ Fresh ♦ Natural

April 2009

Dear Friends:

The farm is like a different world compared to a month ago. There's that fantastic scent of everything coming alive again out of a long winter rest. It's amazing to be out on the land and experience the life force of nature this time of year. The first full-blooded Hereford calf we waited so long for finally arrived on Easter Sunday; a strong, healthy bull calf. He will be a part of our growing herd and we're glad to have him. The chickens are again laying full-bore and will need to have their wings clipped again to keep them out of the vegetables.

Aside from our own animals, we see the wildlife we share our farm with having families too. The geese that overnigh in a corner of the hayfield, the mice making nests everywhere, and the opossum that lives in a flower pot in the garage are all busy with babies. (I've been slow to evict the opossum because she is cute, disgusting, and fascinating all at the same time. Beady little eyes but a cute little pink nose, scaly tail but tiny pink paws, sometimes hisses at me but sometimes plays dead.....see what I mean?)

We've planted the first snap peas, spinach and salad turnips and with some luck with the weather we should start harvesting in late-May. Everything is starting to pop in the greenhouse and we will soon be out of room and start moving the cold tolerant plants, like onions and lettuces and kales, out to cold frames and under row covers.

Ahhh, tomatoes. Check out our website, [http://freedomorganix.com/p\\_tomatoes.html](http://freedomorganix.com/p_tomatoes.html), to see the 30 different cultivars we're planting. Along with standard main crop tomatoes, we're testing some new types, like the Burgess Stuffer. It is hollow inside and is meant to be stuffed like a pepper. Also, a pink tomato from Japan, the Momataro, promises great flavor. Plus, we're growing seven different types of cherry tomatoes of all different shapes and colors. Aside from being just beautiful, they make a great, easy, snack, and they are the first to be ripe at around 65 days after planting. Since tomatoes are easy and grow well in pots, I'll be including a tomato transplant in one of your early boxes for you to grow yourself or give to your favorite tomato-loving-farmer-wanna-be-gardening friend. It seems we either are one or know one.

Something new -- We'll be putting 600 strawberry plants in the ground in the next few weeks, so watch your inbox for our member only U-Pick strawberry event.

Finally, if you're looking for a nice drive in the country, come check us out at the Woodstock Farmers Market this year. It is held Tuesdays and Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. starting May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Freedom Organix will be there rain or shine.

We're glad you joined us this year!

Your farmer,

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Know your food, know your farmer.