



a member-owned cooperative, community-supported agriculture farm

1 September 2011

Dear ICF Member:

As you are well aware, Hurricane Irene doused Vermont this past weekend, affecting thousands of people in many parts of the state. Intervale Community Farm was no exception: 46 of our 46 acres were inundated by the resultant flooding, which featured rapidly rising floodwaters streaming through our barn and cooler, impressive holes in our parking lot, and, most significantly, nearly complete flooding of our crops. We are stunned with the extent of loss; ICF has never suffered a flood of this magnitude or impact in our 22-year history.

Although we are reeling as we assess the damage, compared to many, ICF fared well. Elsewhere in the state farmers (and others) lost greenhouses, barns, homes, and lives, and we are thankful that property damage was minimal and that no one in the Intervale was hurt. We are even more thankful for the amazing response of our members and the wider community to our calls for assistance. Over the three days from Friday through Monday, we had dozens of volunteers helping us in the fields to harvest and evacuate crops and buildings in preparation for the coming flood. Without your collective efforts, we would have very little food remaining after the flood. This is truly a community-supported farm.

Despite our best efforts, though, we are forced to end the 2011 Summer Share early. We also expect to cancel the 2011-2012 Winter Share.

While many of our crops are likely to recover from flooding, food safety concerns place most of them off limits. Leafy greens, crops eaten raw, things with cavities and crevices are all ill-advised. We await opinions from Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, and the US Food & Drug Administration regarding the safety of crops that don't fall into those categories, such as winter squash, potatoes, and sweet potatoes. In the event that those crops (or others) are deemed safe to eat, we will reconsider our plans for both the summer and the winter shares.

Back to the better news: due to the stalwart efforts of our volunteers and seasonal staff, we do have enough rescued produce in the coolers and barns to manage 2-3 more weeks of pickup, and they will feature a good spread of onions, carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, all manner of leafy greens and butternut squash. We also expect we'll be able to distribute our jack-o-lanterns, so long as you promise not to eat them.

Also worth noting is that despite our slow start in June, we had a solid July and August, and taken together with the next few weeks, we'll come out nearly equal to retail price for our 2011 summer

share. While this is a long ways off of the 30-40% savings off of retail we often deliver, we are happy that we approached retail value.

What can you do to help? Since we didn't suffer much property damage, right now we don't have much to clean up or repair aside from fixing our parking lot. We may have opportunities to help in the future, though, and we are very appreciative of your interest and concern.

The financial impact of dropping the winter share is significant, and we can use your help weathering it. If you have an outstanding summer share balance, please pay it as soon as you are able. This will help us sustain a reasonable level of cash on hand. If you are an Intervale Community Farm Cooperative member, consider paying your \$200 share in full, or having a second member of your household join as a co-op member. If you aren't presently an ICF Co-op member consider joining: the long-term impact of hundreds of members' \$200 co-op share is very important. These basic and modest financial help will help our expected fall cash flow crunch considerably.

Ironically, this flood arrives at an exciting time at ICF: in recent weeks we've finalized an agreement for the Compost site across the street. This will provide us with a building with improved storage and winter share pickup area as well as a field for more greenhouses and pick-your-own. Taken together, the field and building will provide the missing link in our quest for a 12-month share.

The Intervale Community Farm has been a cornerstone of Burlington's agricultural renaissance since our inception in 1990. As the oldest and largest farm in the Intervale and the among the largest and most participatory CSA farms in the region, we will continue our work toward a truly sustainable agriculture that is ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just. We hope that you will join us in the venture and continue to enjoy the excellent food, land, and people that make up the ICF.

Sincerely,

Andy Jones

Becky Maden



Help ICF weather the storm:

_____ Pay off outstanding summer share and other balances.

_____ Pay the remainder or a portion of your remaining Co-op membership fee to ICF.

_____ Join the Intervale Community Farm Cooperative, becoming a member-owner of ICF. For a one-time membership share of \$200, you can run and vote for the ICF Board of Directors, share in any profits of the business, and keep your CSA share automatically renewing as long as you wish. More info at: intervalecommunityfarm.com/member-info/icf-cooperative/

_____ Have a job lead for our talented, hard-working seasonal staff that are running out of work early.

_____ Other (please list): _____

Name: _____

Phone/email: _____