

## DERI FARM NEWS

### PLOW DAY A SUCCESS

The First Annual Plow Day (the first cooperative event for Skyline Farm and Deri Farm) was a success. Over three hundred people turned out on a somewhat dreary spring day to watch the fields here be plowed for the first time since World War II. It was great to see not only CSA members, but neighbors, horse enthusiasts and curiosity seekers at this event. Luther (the organizing plowman) is looking forward to having another such event next year -- perhaps a little later in the season when it's a bit drier.

### HELPING HAND

#### Welcome to Kristin McCurdy

I am very excited to have Kristin McCurdy working at Deri Farm for the full season. She helped me for about six weeks last summer and proved to be a huge help during a strenuous period. I hope you will all have the chance to meet her, but be prepared to talk about food and how to use the veggies from Deri Farm -- Kristin has offered to work on recipes for the newsletter. She is a recent graduate from Bates College. She loves to garden and has the ability to deliciously pickle just about anything. She has started working with me part-time (she has helped to seed thousands of plants already) and will start full-time next week. When you are out at the farm, be sure to introduce yourself to her.

### PAYMENT REMINDER

This is a reminder that any remaining balance for your share is due by June 1. Watch for another email from me listing payments that I have on record for you.

### GREENS ARE GROWING

The greenhouse is overflowing with trays of thousands of seedlings. Just this week, Kristin and I finished potting-up over one thousand tomato seedlings which will be planted out in the field at the end of May. With the help of Emma, one of the volunteers, we also had a chance to plant quite a few plants in the field before the rain this week. The plantings in the field are brocolli, cabbage, cauliflower, swiss chard and kale. This is an exciting start to the season and I hope to have pictures and news as things continue to grow and we approach the first harvest in June.

<http://derifarm.com/newsletters/>

### NEW SKYLINE EXHIBIT "The Age of Innocence"

The next exhibit at Skyline Farm is a collaborative effort with the Victoria Museum in Portland named after Edith Warton's book "The Age of Innocence." The exhibit will have carriages on display that are representative of 1870's New York. I hope to attend the opening for the exhibit on May 17, from 12-3 PM. For more information, see: <http://skylinefarm.org/events.asp>. Hope to see you there!



### FARMER'S CORNER

So, the fields have been plowed and mostly harrowed...now what happens? Plow Day was just the start in preparing the soil for planting. After a week, some of the sod that was turned over by the plowing started to break down through various biological processes. If dry enough (challenging this time of year), the ground is working using a piece of equipment similar to a rototiller to start forming nice beds. This may take a several passes with a couple of weeks between each pass to break down the sod even more. Just before planting, compost and organic fertilizers are spread in the rows where plants will go and then incorporated with one final shallow pass with the tiller.



Kristin McCurdy (now a full-time employee at Deri Farm) gets practice on the tractor by tilling some new beds.