

ROLLING PRAIRIE

notes from rolling prairie farmers alliance

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18
2011

Coming Up

Winding down



After several rounds of discussions among Rolling Prairie Farmers, a plan for winding down this difficult 2011 season has emerged. Details of the plan will be available from your site coordinator, but in general we are trying to make what remains of 2010 crops available to as many subscribers as possible, without falling into a situation where everyone comes up short.

The summer heat and drought have taken their toll, not only on the abundance of typical summer crops like tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant, but also on the germination and survivability of cool season fall crops. Rain this past weekend will help some, but at this point it is too late to restart many crops which would succumb to the first frost, which will likely hit us within the next 30 days.

Growing fruit and vegetables in the volatile climate of eastern Kansas is always a challenge, and that challenge is becoming even greater as the climate becomes more volatile. Farmers will continue to adapt, and you can look forward, as we do, to a winter of evaluation and new ideas to take us into next Spring.



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LOCAL * SUSTAINABLE * COOPERATIVE

NEXT STEPS IN THE FOOD MOVEMENT

Last May, Prince Charles made a speech to The Future for Food conference at Georgetown University in which he proclaimed, “We are going to have to take some very brave steps” to begin to work with “Nature’s system” to feed a growing population in a more sustainable way.

According to the prince, “genuinely sustainable farming maintains the resilience of the entire ecosystem by encouraging a rich level of biodiversity in the soil, in its water supply and in the wildlife – the birds, insects and bees that maintain the health of the whole system.” We couldn’t agree more.

Now, our own Prince of Food, Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore’s Dilemma; In Defense of Food*), has pub-

lished an op-ed in *The Nation*, in which he argues that the next phase of change in the food system will come not only from the grassroots efforts of people like us (Rolling Prairie farmers and subscribers), but also “paradoxically, from powerful interests that stand to gain from it.”

Who might those powerful interests be? Pollan suggests that the healthcare industry might become our most powerful ally, as it faces changes in requirements that victims of poor diets—those suffering from diabetes, obesity, and related ailments—be covered by insurance plans. Faced with the added cost of such coverage, that industry is already showing signs of supporting healthier policies like taxing soda.

