

# Fresh Picks Newsletter

## Farm News

IT FINALLY RAINED! The excitement was real here at the farm-- we were jumping, cheering, and (almost) crying tears of joy. All day on Tuesday we watched the rain percentage drop, so we headed back to the fields to irrigate as much as we could. Drip irrigation was running on our onions, our water reel was running on winter squash, and we were driving a big truck into the field with a water tank on the back to individually water every lettuce and cucumber plant. While we were watering lettuces the sky got dark, and then the sky opened up! Four tenths of an inch fell in twenty minutes on Tuesday afternoon, another tenth fell overnight, and another tenth fell on Wednesday! We actually have mud puddles at the farm! While walking through our fields on Wednesday, one of our crew members said he could "hear the plants growing". We agree--it's amazing the immediate changes you can see after a good, soaking rain!

### **In your bag this week: Little Gem Lettuce**

This is a new variety of lettuce we are trying this year. This variety forms a uniform, dense, "mini head", and it is known for its excellent eating quality. The texture of the leaves is tender and the flavor is sweet.



We have upsetting news to share: on Thursday night, 5 bushels of green beans, 50 bunches of beets, 50 bunches of onions, and multiple heads of lettuce were stolen from our cooler. This left us scrambling late on Friday to harvest more of everything to complete CSA shares. Each member was supposed to have almost 3/4 of a pound of green beans this week, and unfortunately it was reduced. We will have to begin locking our cooler at night and will update local members as to when they can access the cooler.



Rain shower moves in from the West over our packing barn.

## *In the Bag*

- Zucchini
- Yellow Squash
- Green Beans
- Bunched Dill
- Little Gem Lettuce
- Assorted Lettuce
- Assorted Beets
- Green Onions

Next week: cucumbers!



# Meet your Farmer

## **Kathy Riggs-Allen, Farm Manager**

Introducing Kathy Riggs-Allen, the farm manager at Porter Farms! If you've never met Kathy, you are one of the small minority in Genesee County. Everywhere we go, it is guaranteed that she will know at least one person there. Many people will remember her from her years of employment at Tops Markets, where she met her husband Mark. Fun fact--she was actually Katie's boss at Tops. Others may know Kathy from her involvement at The Caryville Inn in Oakfield and The Alabama Hotel.

Growing up, her and her three siblings (she's the youngest) would help their father grow various crops in the field behind their house. They would then sell their garlic, green beans, sweet corn, peppers, and winter squash at roadside stands. Her knowledge of garlic planting was crucial this year as we grew garlic for the first time!

Throughout high school Kathy was a star athlete, and later played softball at Brockport State College. She earned her Bachelors in Athletic Education and Masters degree in Athletic Administration, both at Brockport. After graduating, she continued to pursue her passion of softball and coached at Brockport for eight years.

So how did Kathy become involved with Porter Farms? Farmer Mike used to go to The Caryville Inn almost every day for lunch. After he became a "regular", he and Kathy became great friends. After asking him for years for a job at the farm, he finally called her up two years ago and said "I've got a job for you", and the rest is history.

Kathy's first major job at the farm was to help complete our farm store, offices, commercial kitchen, break room, and bathrooms. Her vision for the store and offices has been amazing, totally transforming the look of the farm. After Farmer Mike's passing in January 2021, Kathy stepped up to help keep our farm operating and has learned a lot about farming in a very short amount of time. On a day-to-day basis Kathy can be found doing the following things: payroll, insurance, managing livestock, managing the retail store, setting up irrigation, cultivating, keeping records for our GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification, managing the various crews, maintaining records for all vehicles and tractors, and helping with CSA packing and distribution. Most importantly, she keeps our crew laughing all day long.

In her spare time, Kathy enjoys playing softball, four wheeling, trap shooting, and collecting sneakers.

## **Q & A's with Kathy:**

Q: What is your favorite Movie? A League of Their Own

Q: What is your favorite Color? Green

Q: What is your favorite type of Music? Classic rock, older country, and Billy Joel!

Q: Do you have any nicknames? Riggs, Riggsy

Q: What is your dream vehicle? Yellow McLaren or Green 1969 mg

Q: Are You a good Cook? Yes--shhh. Don't tell anyone

Q: What is something that you wish you were gifted at doing? Drawing

Q: Can you dance and sing? Yes, but not while anyone is watching.

Q: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why? Ireland--it's my heritage

Q: What is the best place you have every traveled to and why? A month in Italy & Mediterranean. Food, history, beauty, and great company.

Q: What is the most ridiculous thing you've ever done? Rode a mule down 720 steps in Santorini Greece

Q: If you could eat lunch with one famous person, who would it be? Kevin Costner

Q: If you had the opportunity to go to space would you? No, I'm afraid of heights

Q: What is the best part of your job? People, nature, and and then rewarding yields.

Q: What is your favorite vegetable? Brussels sprouts