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Holiday weekend coming up – plan ahead and change your pickup day now if you need to. Remember there is no Sunday pickup option anymore.

When can I sign up for next year? Pre-season signup forms should be ready the second week of Sept, on-line signups might be a week or so behind depending on when we can get the website changes done.

How many more weeks of CSA do we have? We are about half way through. The last week of harvest will be October 25th – 28th.

FRUIT BOX ORDERS: PEACHES are hard to get reliably so I'm going to skip peaches. Or most reliable supplier is not selling at a discount this season. Peach growers apparently were affected by the "May Effect" cold really wet weather which affected the peach blooming period. Of course they are still available on the regular wholesale market but I can't get the varieties without possible substitutions.

Apple and **potato** box signups will be available in September.

Regarding the topic of migrant farm workers, PCC had a really informative article this month which most of you may have seen. Here are some excerpts:

"estimates of Hispanic farmworkers range as high as 70%..... on California's central coast..... Hispanics are noticeably absent from not just farms, but everywhere.....people are intimidated by the atmosphere....."

"we're hearing a lot of concern from employers and there are limited options available to recruit or document workers..... The H-2a Program allows farm owners to apply to the Dept of Labor to bring foreign nationals to the US to fill temporary agricultural jobs..... by March, the DOL had approved guest worker visas for only about 12 percent of farmworkers needed for US farms. Critics of the program say it's borderline indentured service since it requires workers to stay locked in the position they were hired for up to 10 months or return to their country.

this program gives employers enormous leverage over workers. If working conditions do not match what the employer advertised she or he runs the risk of being accused of a crime and early deportation if she or he voices a complaint. The H2-A system has led to numerous documented cases of debt-peonage, human trafficking and forced labor.....One grower housed farmworkers in four cramped filthy and windowless busses rather than the hotel he cited.....he was approved to pay a minimum wage of \$10.95 per hour..... Once the farmworkers were on site, he instead paid tem \$0.13 to \$0.70 per bag of harvested crops"

"A hidden consequence of the guest worker program will be the loss of more small farms in Washington.... We're seeing consolidation driven by corporate operations that have the muscle to hire under the H-2A scheme."

Indentured servitude is rampant in the world, and has a long history in this country. One country where is the norm in agriculture is Mexico. This will be more common on US soil as greed corrupts and many companies will start taking advantage of the current programs which only benefit large corporate growers. Most of the large farms in Mexico are under contract to US food retailers, who despite the "ethics statements" on their websites use the same lame excuse "we didn't know" or "we are trying to make improvements" when faced this exposes of the horrible slave-like conditions of the farmworkers who make them the big profits. The LA Times article named some grocery chains and this might surprise you: Whole Foods, Safeway, Albertsons among others. This goes way beyond just workers not making much money, living in poverty, etc. I have printed some pages from the article which you can get here if you want. To read the whole thing, go to <http://graphics.latimes.com/product-of-mexico-children>

Thank you for supporting Local Agriculture !

