

# ROLLING PRAIRIE

*notes from rolling prairie farmers alliance*

WEEK OF AUGUST 30  
2009

## Coming Up



### Abundant rain, cool temps, bumper crops

I have to admit, I sometimes get tired of writing that the unusual is usual when it comes to our part of the world, but here we are again. Ponds are full, soil is wet, and people are wearing sweatshirts--at the end of August!

In some ways, this has meant that our crops are abundant, and we are spending our time harvesting, weeding, and planting fall crops, rather than irrigating, as we normally would be doing at this time of year. I am frankly mystified that even the tomatoes are still producing, although they certainly are slowing down, not only because of diseases fostered by these cool, damp conditions, but also because tomatoes will not ripen very fast when nights are this cool.

Look for the transition to more leafy greens and root crops like radishes and turnips as we move into September and October.

**Special notice to Merc subscribers in Lawrence:** Pickup next week will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 8, due to the Labor Day Holiday and the early closing time at the Merc.



MICHAEL POLLAN :  
IN DEFENSE OF FOOD

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

EAT FOOD \* NOT TOO MUCH \* MOSTLY  
PLANTS

### “OOPS, I FORGOT;” NO WORRIES, NO WASTE

Everybody forgets some-time. But it's an especially bad feeling when you forget to pick up your Rolling Prairie bag. Not only do we have to charge you if you didn't make vacation day arrangements in advance, there is also the feeling that the good food we bring each week might go to waste.

Not to worry; we make sure that any unclaimed food finds a home, even if, as a last resort, it is the compost pile, to turn back into the soil in which more food will be grown. Fortunately, charitable organizations have stepped forward to help our leftover produce find its way onto the plates of people who are unfortunately unable to afford such healthy food.

At JCCC, we were contacted early in the Spring by Lisa Ousley with the Society of St. Andrew, who in turn connected us with Christine Germann, director of the Village Pantry, operated by the Village Presbyterian Church in Shawnee Mission. We are tracking our donations to that food pantry and will report some totals here at the end of the season.

In Lawrence, donations are coordinated by Cynthia Haines, a Lawrence master gardener who was instrumental in organizing a Produce Distribution Committee of the Master Gardeners. They had a wonderful write-up in the June 11 Lawrence Journal-World.

