

AJO CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Dear all,

Here at the Center, the summer continues to be busy. With the few rains we have had, the monsoon crops are coming out strongly, both at our community farm in the Courtyard and at Dolce Vita garden. We have also been monitoring the water flow at the dry-farmed Rodeo field, but so far it seems like the rain has been avoiding us out there but for one quick soaking.

We have been harvesting the first of the pomegranates and figs in the heirloom orchard in the Courtyard, and discovered that the one and only olive tree does bear fruit after all!

More and more chickens are starting to lay, and in the spirit of the community celebration, the Center is donating the first eggs to the mesquite breakfast this Saturday. We are also looking to acquire a refrigerator to store the eggs, donations are welcome.

While Peter and Betsy will continue to work with the Get Going, Get Growing youth, tending the chicken coop and building the shade structures and washing stations, we will primarily use August and September to plan out our fall/winter activities. We need your feedback - tell us what you would like to see! More gardening or canning workshops? More Garden Buddies technical assistance? Food system/permaculture talks? Tours? Events?

The Center is also starting a search for another plot in Ajo to install a new urban mini-farm - if you have a town lot you would like to see transformed into a green oasis with tons of food grown, please consider donating it to the Center.

Encouraged by many of you, the Center has now created a Facebook page! Please check it out, like us, and also let us know your feedback - this is, after all, your page, too! What would you like to see and hear, what kind of threats would you like us to have? So far, we are using it to post more photos from our activities instead of clogging your emails. Peter is preparing a photo recap of the grain growers tour we attended last Friday, and he is also writing up a longer article with plenty of information on each farm that he will be posting on our website by the end of the day.

Here is the link to the second part of Arizona Illustrated's featuring the Center's community farm in the Courtyard: <https://originals.azpm.org/p/azill-nature/2013/7/10/25355-az-illustrated-nature-wednesday-july-10-2013/>

At last but not least, join us this Saturday, July 20, from 8:30 am on at the community farm in the Courtyard for a taste of mesquite and to learn how to utilize this nutritious resource.

Please keep calling the rains, and stay cool!