Dear Friend,

With all the snow on the ground and more expected, it's hard to think that spring is almost here - but it is! Livestock farmer, Geoff Kinder, and vegetable farmer, Ashley Brister, RTB's social entrepreneurs, have been busy preparing their 2015 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs.

CSA memberships have many benefits to you and the farmer. By securing a food source close to home, you build a trusting relationship with the farmer that is growing your food, reconnect with your local food system and, most importantly, invest in your health. The farmer gets payment up front so they can focus on animal, produce and land health.

This winter, Ashley has been dreaming about improvements she intends to implement for this year's **vegetable CSA** members, including a pick your own herb and flower garden! In just a few short weeks, she will be sowing her first seeds and the annual cycle of seed to table will have begun again. If you are interested in learning more or joining Ashley's CSA, <u>click here</u>. **Ashley is offering an early-bird special. Sign up before March 1st and receive a bonus, equaling 10% the value of your share.** This can be spent on extra produce throughout the season or in the fall or winter when the summer CSA season has come to a close.

Geoff's **meat CSA** is in its third year and has grown steadily in memberships each year. Shares will consist of pork, beef and lamb and are cut and wrapped at a USDA inspected facility. Geoff's beef cattle and lambs are 100% grass-fed and grass-finished, they are antibiotic and hormone free, and are pastured (they eat only their natural diet). The pigs are also pastured and fed a non-GMO grain. If you are interested in learning more or joining Geoff's Meat CSA, click here.

If you are in a hurry for local meat and don't want to wait for the meat CSA to begin, **Geoff is now offering (1) CowShare and (3) PigShares**. This is another way you can support local farmers while experiencing the benefits of purchasing and eating meat that has been raised locally and ethically - contact <u>Geoff</u> for more information.

With gratitude,

Elizabeth Wiley

Program Manager

Round the Bend Farm - A Center for Restorative Community