

edible
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GRIST FOR THE MILL

Dear Eater,

Our last issue greeted you with all the fond, hopeful expectations of spring following a harrowing winter. Little did we know that Iowa's biggest weather challenges still lay ahead as weeks of drenching rains would soak nearly every corner of the state.

Our intent for the summer was to bring you an issue dedicated to the wonderful foods along the route of the 36th annual RAGBRAI (for the uninitiated, that's the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa), and to bring it to you in mid July. As all of us in Iowa have learned though, Mother Nature had other plans, and her plans take precedence.

So in this edition of *Edible*, we take an in-depth look at the flooding and its long-term effects. "Voices from the Field" is a special section featuring three compelling narratives about this year's severe weather. You'll hear from farmers Andrew Dunham and Denise O'Brien, as well as Iowa "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" program coordinator Mallory Smith.

Regular contributors Brian Morelli, Michael Knock, Criss Roberts and Dave Murphy also have flood tales for us, and you'll learn ways you can help get Iowa's local, sustainable food system back on its feet.

In happier news, guest contributor Brian Halweil will invite you to "the first Continental Culinary Congress," when Slow Food Nation convenes in San Francisco in late August. You'll also meet Sutliff Cider's Scott Ervin, whose cider will be highlighted at this impressive gathering.

The ripple effects of the flooding will be felt throughout all our lives for months and years to come. Here at *Edible*, some 80 percent of our advertisers were affected either directly or indirectly, especially places like Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City and Blend and Zins in Cedar Rapids, who as of when we went to press, were still awaiting word of when, or even if, they would be reopening. Our thoughts are with them all, as well as our heartfelt gratitude to them for their continued patronage.

That gratitude extends to our readership as well, for the warm welcome you gave us when we launched *Edible* eight issues ago, and for your continued support not only of us, but of our advertisers. We should all be justifiably proud of the way our community has taken care of its own during these troubled times. Thank you, Iowa.

With Relish,
Kurt & Wendy



Photo by Joy Anderson