

*This member agreement is for viewing purposes only. If you sign up for the CSA, you will receive an updated agreement to sign just before the season starts. The information will generally be the same, so we wanted to share it with those considering joining.*

## Old Ford Farm 2018 CSA Member Agreement

This document contains all the logistics and ground rules you need to know regarding our CSA. Please read everything thoroughly, sign it, and return the last page to us on or before the first distribution.

### **Distribution time and place**

The season consists of 24 distributions. Each week distribution takes place on Wednesday from 4pm to 7pm at the farm. The address is 1359 Old Ford Rd. When you walk in the driveway, you will see the farm store on your right. Keep walking down the hill and you will see the veggies set up under an overhang.

We want everyone to be aware that we use electric fencing on the farm for our livestock. Any metal wire or white twine suspended between fence posts is an electric fence. There is one fence in particular that is very close to the distribution area, so please be cautious. If you are new to the farm, just ask us to point it out to you the first time you come.

### **Parking**

Parking for CSA members is located on River Park Drive. If you are coming onto Old Ford Rd from 208, the farm's driveway will be on your left and just past our driveway is River Park Drive. Turn right onto River Park Drive and park on the shoulder on the right side of the road. (Make sure you are only on the RIGHT side, and all of your tires are COMPLETELY off the road.) The walk to the farm from there is very short, and when you are finished picking up your food, you are welcome to pull your car in to our driveway briefly to load up.

If you have a special need to park closer (e.g. if you have difficulty walking for any reason or have multiple small children with you) there are two parking spots in our driveway which you may use. They are located directly in front of the farm store and are labeled with a sign that says "Customer Parking". Please only park here if you have a legitimate need to do so.

It is absolutely essential that nobody parks along Old Ford Road! Our farm is located in a residential neighborhood and it is an endless challenge for us to keep all the neighbors happy. In the past we have fielded numerous complaints about our customers parking along the road and we have even been reprimanded by the town government for this on multiple occasions. Thus, it is essential to our continuation as a farm that you understand and respect our parking rules: Do NOT park in the farm's driveway unless you have a good reason to do so, and whatever you do, DO NOT park along Old Ford Road.

### **How our CSA works**

Since we have an atypical CSA model, we want to make sure everyone is very clear on how our CSA works. To be fair to the farmers and your fellow members, it is very important that you understand and follow the system.

When you signed up for the CSA, you purchased a share for each member of your household. When you come to distribution each week, you can take whatever vegetables you need for *your household* for *one week*. Other than that, we do not restrict what you take in any way. There is no weighing or counting. You are not forced to take anything you will not use.

Here is what is NOT ok:

-giving your vegetables away to friends (i.e. non-household members who were not paid for)

- throwing away vegetables (whether that be to a compost pile, trash can, or your chickens)
- preserving vegetables for use in future weeks (more on this later)
- stockpiling storage vegetables for use after distribution ends in the fall

On the other hand, here is what IS ok:

- trying to make the most of your money by integrating more farm veggies into your diet
- changing what vegetable side-dishes you make based on the season
- cooking with your vegetables for 3 meals a day and 7 days a week
- centering meals around your vegetables
- replacing processed foods in your diet with food from your farm share...

All of these practices we greatly encourage! So long as you stay within the bounds of your household for one week, please feel free to take generously from our offerings.

Occasionally we will place a limit on a certain item, if a crop is on its way in or out, or if there was difficulty with a certain crop. It's not often, but we want you to know it can happen.

What about guests? We certainly don't want you to do anything crazy like preparing a separate meal with other veggies if you are having friends over for dinner. We just ask that if on any occasion you are cooking for more than just your household, you buy some supplemental veggies from our farm store that will approximately make up for the extra you need. Again, no need to obsess over being exact, but please try to be fair. Keep in mind that everything we produce costs us money and we sell the leftovers from CSA. The success of this CSA model and our ability to keep the price from rising relies on your honesty in following the system.

### **Preserving and Juicing**

Remember that when you take veggies at distribution, you can take only what you need for the week - do not take more for freezing, canning, drying or any other kind of preserving. We also do not allow for juicing of CSA veggies. Any of these practices would allow you to take significantly larger quantities of vegetables than the CSA price accounts for, and we would not be able to sustain this model at the current price if that happens. Feel free to buy veggies from our farm store for preserving or juicing any time. Also, whenever we have a bumper crop of a certain item we will offer it to CSA members to buy in bulk for a minimal price for these purposes.

### **Missing Distribution**

If there is ever a time when something comes up and you (or any other household member) cannot make it to the farm at distribution time, it is not a problem. Just let us know as soon as possible. Tell us exactly what veggies you want and we will set aside a bin in our walk-in cooler for you to pick up at your convenience. You can contact us any time via text, email, or phone. (Contact info is below and can also be found on our website.)

If you are going away on vacation, again, let us know which distribution you will be missing. Under this CSA model we don't allow for friends to get veggies instead of members while they are away, but we do offer several options. If you are able to cook while on vacation, you can take extra veggies the week before to bring with you on your trip (just let us know before Wednesday if you are doing this). Also, you can stop by the farm whatever day you return home to pick up veggies to get you through to the next distribution. (Again, let us know so we can set the veggies aside for you.) If neither of these are possible, we have ONE make-up distribution at the end of the season which you can come to. We offer this for anyone who misses an entire week. *We do not keep track of who misses a week! It is your responsibility to remember whether or not you qualify for the make-up distribution!*

### **The Whole-Farm Experience**

One of our favorite parts of farming is having a personal relationship with the people we are feeding. This connection is especially strong with our CSA members, since we see you each week. It is our hope that your CSA membership means more to you than just fresh veggies. We hope that this will be a well-rounded whole-farm experience for members, through the following ways:

Farm Store: Even though your CSA share is only for vegetables, the entire farm is extremely diversified, and this diversity is the foundation of our sustainable land management practices, our well-being as farm workers, and our business. All of our other products (raw milk, eggs, and meats, as well as many products from other local farms) are available to everyone in our farm store. When you come to distribution each week, please avail yourself these fabulous offerings; the store is self-serve and open 24/7 every day of the year. Between our farm store and your CSA share you can truly fill your plate exclusively with local, pristine, sustainably-raised food.

Farm Tours: We'd love for you to see the farm in action and how your food is being raised. To that end, we are adding an additional perk to your CSA membership this year, and that is the option for free farm tours. (We usually charge \$75 if anyone wants a to tour any part of the farm beyond the driveway.) The tours will take place during distribution hours. You can visit any of the following locations with Becky or Joe:

- our fields on Forest Glen Road, where our pigs, laying hens, turkeys, and non-lactating cattle reside
- our main fields (where CSA distribution takes place), where our meat chickens, baby chicks, and lactating cows live
- our garden, which is a quarter mile down the road from the distribution location, and where all of your veggies are grown.

If you are interested in a tour, please tell us (in email or in person) where you'd like to go and any restrictions you have in terms of date and time (remember it can only be on a Wednesday between 4pm and 7pm). We will schedule the tours according to the requests that we get. This option will remain open to you for the entirety of the CSA season.

### **Misc.**

Bring your own bags and containers to distribution. Most members find that large, structured containers (cardboard boxes, laundry baskets, milk crates, coolers, etc) are much easier than canvas bags. We also recommend that you keep a handful of bags stashed in your trunk so you aren't stuck if you ever forget to bring your usual container.

Balances are due at the first distribution. Let us know if you don't remember what you owe. If you aren't able to pay the full balance at this time, just talk to us about it and we'd be happy to work out a payment plan.

We will email the harvest list each Tuesday so you will know what veggies to expect. Give us the email addresses of any other household members who would like to be included on the weekly emails.

Finally, please share all of this information with any household member who might be picking up veggies for you at any point this season. It's important that everyone understands how this works.

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