

2021 CSA Member Agreement

March Farm

160 Munger Lane, Bethlehem, CT 06751

Farm Store: (203) 266-7721

Fax: (203) 266-6076

Web Site: www.marchfarm.com

Email: info@marchfarms.com

Email: csa@marchfarms.com

We, March Farm wish to provide you with fresh, local, seasonal produce that you, the member, wish to receive a portion of our harvest. The agreement outlines our shared commitments to that relationship. By purchasing a share, you agree to these terms.

Section 1. Introducing March Farm's CSA Program

A. Becoming a Part of March Farm's CSA

Families and households sign up to purchase a "share" of upcoming season's harvest. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between our farm and you as our customer. Rather than simply purchasing food, our customers become "members" of this CSA farm who receive a portion of the farm's harvest. This commitment in advance, partners with us on the costs of running the CSA, including seeds, fertilizer, labor, equipment and insurances, most of which are incurred during the spring planting season.

Our CSA runs for 16 weeks, from June through September. Members are responsible for showing up at the farm each week to pick up their share, unless their shares are being delivered to one of the participating Hospitals. Variety and quantity may vary as described below in Section 2. Detailed information regarding pick up is discussed below in Section 3. The starting week will be based upon production conditions and emailed to members.

B. Our Growing Practices

We are proud of the significant efforts we employ to minimize our environmental footprint while balancing the need to be economically viable. We have achieved this using a sound, structured IPM program. IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of scouting, timely action steps, and overall knowledge – in regards to both the lifecycles of the crops and the pests that prey on them. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage past damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. A number of our crops are grown conventionally this way while others are grown completely chemical free – especially our greenhouse grown offerings which enjoy the advantage of growing in a controlled environment under the protection of a number of beneficial insects. Growing practices for each produce item

will be outlined on our website. Members will be notified of any changes to a particular practice due to unforeseen environmental damage or pest pressure.

C. The Produce We Expect to Harvest

Throughout the 16 weeks. Members will receive a variety of fresh produce from the farm. For example in June we will have asparagus, cherries, English cucumbers, mini cucumbers, peppers, herbs, lettuce, strawberries and a number of tomato varieties. July will include fresh picked beets, blueberries, green beans, nectarines, peaches, sweet corn and squash, followed by apples, blackberries, carrots, pumpkins, raspberries, winter squash and more.

Of course weather, pests, and other events will affect actual production and what's available each week. Greenhouse grown produce items include cucumbers, peppers, herbs, lettuce and tomatoes will also most likely be available through the season.

Members will be notified as to the contents of each box via weekly emails. This information will also be posted on the March Farm website.

The March Farm growing season is expected, but not guaranteed, to include :
Tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, plum tomatoes, asparagus, English cucumbers, mini cucumbers, peppers, carrots, basil and other herbs, beets, kale, lettuce, cherries, summer squashes, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, peaches, nectarines, sweet corn, apples, pumpkins, various winter squashes and more!

Section 2. Our Shared Commitments

A. Sharing in the Risk of Crop Failure

Our goal is to provide members with a bountiful share of produce each week. The variety of produce, however, may vary from week to week due to extreme weather, insects, or other production factors despite our best efforts. By joining the March Farm CSA, members agreed to share the risk of crop failure with the farm. In the unlikely event of a crop failure, our procedure is as follows: if only a small portion of crops fail, we compensate for the failed crops by filling your share with other crops grown on the farm that are ready for harvest at that time. We may also cover a crop loss by cooperating with other local farmers who share similar growing practices. Members will be notified if produce from other local farms is to be included in a particular weeks share. Members will always receive the full value of their share over the course of the season.

B. Sharing in the Reward of Crop Surplus

We work to maximize the diversity of our product offerings and will avoid over delivery of any one product. But just as members share in the risk of crop failure, they will also enjoy the benefits of a crop surplus, where certain items will be left on a 'CSA only' table free of charge for members on pick up days. A crop surplus can occur for a variety of reasons, but usually (at

least at March Farm) this happens when inclement weather is either occurring or forecasted for the days leading to and on CSA share pick up days.

For example, a rainy weekend will keep most 'pick your own' patrons out of our blueberry field. That leaves us with a surplus of berries that need to be picked before over ripening occurs. In this event the ripest berries would be harvested CSA pick up morning and offered to members free of charge in addition to what would normally be included in their share for that week. CSA members will also benefit from a variety of "perks" throughout the season, reserved for CSA members only. When these perks are offered they will be highlighted on the weekly CSA email.

Section 3. Picking-Up Shares

A. Members are responsible for picking up their share each week on their selected day (Wednesday or Thursday). Adhering to the following rules makes for an enjoyable pick-up day each week:

- 1) Each week shares will be packaged in a corrugated box with top. Please return the box with when coming to pick up the following week's share. Some prefer to bring their own bags.
- 2) Notify the Farm Store or email CSA@marchfarms.com if you can not pick up on your designated day, need to do so after hours or are having another person pick up for you. We start with high quality produce, and the effects of temperature and weather may cause it to decline if not picked up in a timely manner.
- 3) Always respect the farm property, your fellow members, parking lot courtesy and safety.

We take the safety of our produce seriously, most of which is freshly picked for members the morning of their pick up day. For you added protection, wash all produce before use and keep products properly refrigerated or frozen as soon as possible.

Section 4. Communicating With Us

We have a program director handling all CSA communication and can be reached at CSA@marchfarm.com . Upon registration members can also leave messages for her at the farm store, or speak with her directly if she happens to be there at the time of your call.

Members will receive weekly email updates that provide important information about their share, Farm updates and other happenings related to the season. Email is the primary means of communication so it is important that the shareholders read them.