

# Open Field Farm 2023 Member Agreement

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With awareness of the balance that exists in nature, Open Field Farm strives to operate a productive farm that meets the food needs of the community; that fosters a positive relationship between the farmers, the community members, and the land; and that continues to improve the farm ecosystem.

## **Becoming a Part of Our Farm**

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between the farm and you as a member. It is a commitment that the farmer and the members make to each other: for the farmer to produce healthy, fresh, and hopefully abundant food and for the member to support the farm through the seasons. We share equally in the rewards and risks of farming. The farm is open to members at any time to come pick additional flowers, take a hike, have a picnic, and more. Please email us in advance to let us know if you are coming.

## **Member's Role**

We hope to create an environment where all who are part of the farm are equally valued; without each other the farm could not exist. In this context, we describe those of us working on the farm as the active farmers and the broader community as members. The main role of the members is to provide the farmers with the support they need to carry out the daily operations of the farm. While this support could come in many forms, the most important is that the community makes an effort to understand the needs of the farm and is informed about our growing practices. The other crucial means of support is an economic contribution from each of us that will meet the needs of the farm for a year.

## **The Seasons**

Our CSA is open for 50 weeks, from May to May. We will be closed the week of 12/25-29 and the week of 4/29-5/3. We will also be closed on Tuesday 7/4 and Friday 11/24, but open on Friday 7/7 and Tuesday 11/21, so that members can still come those weeks. Members come to the farm either every week or every other week, depending on their share size to pick up their share of freshly harvested farm produce, pick your own flowers, herbs, eggs, beef, and grain. All of the food we offer through our CSA is grown on our farm, unless otherwise specified.

## **Our Growing Practices**

All of our produce is grown in accordance with organic and biodynamic principles. We focus on improving the soil and maintaining the health of our crops using compost, crop rotations, and cover crops. Our cows and sheep are all grass fed only and move to fresh pasture daily. Our chickens are fed domestically grown, organic grain, farm produce, and moved to fresh pasture weekly during the summer. All of the animals graze in the vegetable fields once we are done harvesting out of them for the year, providing rich nutrients to the soil while helping us clean out the fields. In the winter, the chicken coop needs to be parked since it is too heavy to move on wet ground. We create a straw pack yard for them which in spring becomes a compost pile.

## **Our Produce**

We carefully create our crop plans in the winter, hoping to provide you with all your vegetables throughout the year. We grow a wide variety of crops that we offer free choice each week. The season starts leaner in the spring, with the largest abundance in the summer and fall. In the winter the variety will shrink again. We will have storage crops to offer, and as much fresh produce as is possible. We take food safety seriously. We carefully harvest and process your food so that it is as fresh and clean as possible. Most produce is lightly washed with filtered water and repacked in a clean container. For your added protection, wash all produce before eating and put frozen products in the freezer as soon as possible.

## **Our Chickens and Meat**

We believe that the animals have a higher purpose within the whole farm organism, and we choose not to keep animals only for their production value. We take the work we do with animals on the farm seriously and have spent years developing what we believe are best practices for their care. We continually try to improve our understanding of their needs. Eggs will be available to members each week as long as the hens are laying. Laying hens will be offered as soup hens at the end of their laying cycle. Grass fed beef is also included in the share.

## **Sharing in the Risk of Crop Failure**

We promise to do our best to provide you with a bountiful share each week. The quantity of goods, however, may vary from week-to-week due to extreme weather, insects, or other production factors despite our best efforts. **By joining our CSA, you are agreeing to share in the risk of crop failure with us and other members.**

## **Sharing in the Reward of Crop Surplus**

Our farm is exclusively a CSA farm, and all our production is planned for the CSA. When crops are especially abundant, we will let you know so that you can process or preserve them as you wish. After each pick up day, we often have excess produce. We feed the extra produce to all of our animals, providing them with extra nourishment.

### **Give what you can, take what you need**

We ask that the community meet the annual operating budget of the farm. Members will pay what they can. Some members will pay more than the average, and some less. In the barn, we ask that you take what you need for the week. **What you take is not connected to the amount you pay.** We realize that the openness can be challenging. Please ask us questions, we are happy to offer advice. We will also let you know if we feel that anyone is taking an unfair share of the harvest.

### **Picking Up Shares**

*Our regular pick-up times are Tuesday and Friday from 2:30 pm to 6:30 pm. From November 7th to March 8th, we close at 6 pm.* You can come either day. If there is a time you are unable to come during pick up hours, please email us and we can pack you a box that you can retrieve from the walk-in cooler. As well you can arrange for someone to pick up your share if you cannot. (Please read the guidelines for selling a share and asking for a packed box for more details.)

### **Selling a week of your share**

You are welcome to do this if you are unable to come for a week. However, we do ask that you explain how the CSA works so that they arrive at the farm ready. Please communicate that the weekly fee is an average value and does not relate directly to what they choose to take of the offerings. Please communicate with them about the beef and what they can take. Please be aware that if we have one-time offerings in the barn that we will save them for you, instead of giving them out.

### **Split Shares**

Please sign in each week with your name so that we can keep track of your schedule. If on accident, you come and it is not your week, you may take half of a share. Please come the next week when it is your week and take another half share.

### **Member Fees**

We encourage monthly or yearly payments. You will receive a monthly invoice that we ask you to pay online. The CSA share is a year commitment and is non-refundable. However, we do understand that things happen. If a change needs to be made, please contact us. We do ask that you continue your membership until we find a replacement together. We will no longer allow cancellations in the last 3 months of the season (February to April).

### **Average share price/member needed to meet the budget: \$150/member/week; \$7800/member/year**

**We ask that you pay what you can, rather than directly relating your payment to the amount you take in the barn.**

Please indicate your chosen weekly fee and if you would like to pay monthly, or annually:

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Please note that a year is 52 weeks (or 26 for a split share) so a monthly invoice is not 4 times (or 2 times for a split share) the weekly amount you choose. We divide the extra weeks across the 12 months.

### **Events**

We choose these dates in advance so that we could all plan ahead. In case of an unforeseen event, they are subject to change.

BBQ and Baseball: Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Harvest Fair: Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

February Celebration: Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Monthly Potlucks: Usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, March to October, except July (See blog for the exact dates)

### **Communicating with Us**

The best way to communicate with us is via email. We will do our best to respond quickly, but please understand that we spend most of our time in the field and not at our desk. Please contact us with any changes to your postal or email address.

We will communicate with you by email. When you sign up, you will be added to our distribution list. Please read your email from us. We depend on being able to communicate important information such as our farm events. Every week, we will email a newsletter giving you information about the crops available that week, recipe ideas, or other farm related news.

By signing below, I agree to purchase the membership share for the season.

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_