

FAQs about Local Harvest CSA

1) When should I arrive?

CSA Share pick-up runs from 2:30 - 6:30 pm. We begin at 2:30 pm, needing the time before to receive deliveries from the farmers and get them ready for you to pick up. Each week you will sign yourself in by checking off your last name (which is the name of the farmshare member) on the list at the top of your row of veggies. Elizabeth, our general communications and membership coordinator, will be available for questions and help when you arrive to pick up your share.

2) How will I know which vegetables are mine and how much to take?

We have a buffet-style pickup. There will be three rows, organized by type of share and alphabetized by last name. Two will be set up for the Single shares and one for the Family shares. Each row will have a series of bins/baskets filled with bagged or bunched vegetables. Signs in front of the containers will indicate what the vegetables are and how many to take from each bin. Generally it is one from each container, rarely is it more than one. CHOICE bins will be filled with several kinds of veggies – you will take only one from the choice bin unless otherwise instructed.

3) Will everyone get the same vegetables and fruits?

Our CSA is a cooperative of eight farmers. Since we have several growers growing the same item in different locations we may not have that item (e.g. cantaloupes) available to all shares on one week. So we have a few ways of dealing with this, such as offering that particular item to one row at a time until all three have receive the item. We pay special attention to ensure that all shares even out fairly over time. We also offer choice bins on each line, where several different vegetables will be featured, and you can pick your favorite for that week.

4) What if I don't like or know a certain vegetable?

We find that many of our members are grateful for being introduced to new food items – we call it “stretching our food horizons.” Also, because garden fresh, locally grown, seasonal organic vegetables usually taste much better than supermarket varieties, you may also want to try something you were not too pleased with before. The next option is to utilize our swap table, where you can leave the unwanted item and pick up a more favored one. You might also check out the cookbook we have for sale or online recipe websites such as epicurean.com, to see what new recipes can be used make vegetables delightful.

5) What happens to my share when I go on vacation?

When you go on vacation or need to skip a week, we can delay your share for that week and then double your share on another week before or after the date you will skip. We will have forms at check-in to use to reserve a double share and to hold your share. We must know one week in advance what you want to do. Another option is to have your friend, family member, neighbor, house sitter or co-worker pick up your share the week(s) you are away- it's a fun way to introduce another person to the CSA or say "thanks" with fresh food. Of course, another great option is to leave the share to be donated with all the other leftover produce to the Friendly Kitchen, the community kitchen in Concord which serves meals to those who need support.

6) What if I forget to pick up, or am really late?

If you are running late, please call our cell phone, (603) 731-5955 to let us know how late you are - we are at the site cleaning up till about 7:15 PM. Therefore we can set your share aside to pick up while we are still there. If that is not an option, please call anyway and we may be able to figure out a way to

get you your share. We cannot offer a refund for missed pick-ups. But please talk with Elizabeth, the check in person, for possible options.

7) Bread shares?

A separate bread table is set up with the bread for the week. Please double check with Elizabeth that you have signed up for a bread share. One loaf goes to single shares, two loaves to the family shares. Abigail's Bakery surprises us each week with a different flavor bread, all delicious! You can always add a bread share if you decide after we start that you would like one.

8) How will I carry all that produce home?

Please bring your own tote bags, one or two, to the pick up each week. We want to reduce the amount of plastic used through our CSA, and though we need to use plastic bags sometimes for our veggies, we appreciate your use of reusable totes (or boxes) to pick up your shares.

9) What if I don't recognize a vegetable? Or know how to cook it?

Joan O'Connor is the site manager, and she will be available to identify and describe the properties of vegetables you may not be familiar with. We will also be offering information and recipes on selected items each week through our online newsletter. And we have a great cookbook for sale, From Asparagus to Zucchini, written by the people who run the Madison Area CSA. There are plenty of websites these days that offer great information about cooking fresh, local and seasonal.

10) What if I want larger amounts of veggies?

We will offer bulk ordering of veggies a month or so after we start. This is an opportunity to buy extra veggies for parties, canning, or other uses. The minimum amount for a bulk order is 5x the amount we usually offer the item in a regular week (e.g. 5 lbs tomatoes, 1lb basil/herbs, etc....) and the order must be placed and paid for a week in advance. We will have order sheets ready when it is time.