

RIVERSTONE ORGANIC FARM CSA FARM SHARE POLICY

Our CSA Vision

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a model for farming built around the relationship between a farm and the surrounding community. It is a mutual commitment between farmers and eaters who share a vision for a more sustainable, just, and vibrant local food system. Becoming a member of our CSA involves purchasing a farm share at the beginning of the year. Each week, members receive a diverse selection of fresh produce harvested at the peak of flavor and ripeness. That selection changes with the seasons and reflects the bountiful variety of produce that grows in our region. Members are welcome to visit our farm and see exactly where their food comes from. For the farmer, a CSA establishes a community of consumers dedicated to supporting their farm for the season. This relationship adds certainty to crop planning and helps minimize waste. We believe the CSA model can empower local farms to ensure communities have access to fresh, healthy, and sustainably-grown local food.

Who We Are

The CSA at Riverstone Organic Farm is operated by Tiffany Thompson and Alex Hessler, along with their 1-year old son, Clay. We share a passion for sustainable agriculture and growing good food for our community. Farming is a profession that challenges and excites us to the core and we couldn't feel more at home farming here at Riverstone. We are joined by a passionate and hard-working team of people who live and work at the farm.

Our Farm's Growing Practices

Riverstone Organic Farm has been certified organic since 2011. Every year we undergo an inspection from a certifying agency who insures all our produce growing practices meet the standards of the USDA National Organic Program. Our farming practices are designed to protect and improve the quality of the soil, water, air and biodiversity of the farm and surrounding environment. These include using compost, rotating crops, irrigating efficiently, and providing habitat for beneficial insects. We never use synthetic pesticides and fertilizers or GMO's. We are happy to answer any questions about our growing practices and invite anyone to come visit the farm.

In addition, we adhere to rigorous food safety practices and undergo an annual third-party audit from the USDA that certifies our field, harvest and post-harvest handling procedures follow the standards of the Harmonized Initiative of Good Agricultural Practices (HGAP).

CSA Farm Share Duration

The CSA farm share season lasts 22 weeks, beginning the first week of June and ending in mid-October. Members pay for and receive 20 weekly deliveries. The additional two weeks are intended to accommodate members taking "weeks off" from the farm share (for vacations, etc.), without having to lose the value of a

delivery. See the section on **Going on Vacation** for more details.

Farm Share Contents

We offer two share sizes. The *Full Share* contains seven to ten items weekly and is suited for a household that cooks often or has three or more people. The *Small Share* contains five to seven items weekly. The small share is suited for a household of one or two people, or for those who plan to supplement with vegetables from other farms or the grocery store.

Our goal is to offer the widest possible diversity of fresh vegetables during the year. What is available changes with the seasons, and will include the following:

arugula, asparagus, beets, broccoli, carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, bok choy, sweet corn, green beans, chard, collards, kale, herbs, lettuce, green onions, onions, bell peppers, sweet peppers, hot peppers, potatoes, sweet potatoes, summer squash, spinach, zucchini, radishes, rhubarb, slicing tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, turnips, watermelon, winter squash and more!

Please keep in mind that a core principle of the CSA concept is the shared commitment between the farm and members. The CSA model is meant to share not only the bounty of the farm but also the potential risks that may come with each growing season, whether that be an extended period of drought or a serious insect infestation. We will always strive to provide a diverse share, but we cannot guarantee certain quantities of specific items at any point in the season.

Value

A benefit of joining our CSA is getting a good deal on fresh local produce in exchange for your commitment to our farm. The exact market value of the farm share varies weekly depending on the specific contents. Farm share items are discounted 10% - 25% below retail prices, depending on the item and amount available. Farm share costs are as follows:

Full Share

\$600 (*\$30/week for 20 weeks*)

Payment in full or in 2 installments of \$300 each

(first installment due at sign-up and last installment due 7/1/2019)

Small Share

\$400 (*\$20/week for 20 weeks*)

Payment in full or in 2 installments of \$200 each

(first installment due at sign-up and last installment due 7/1/2019)

Customizing your Farm Share

We want our members to LOVE their CSA farm share and are excited to offer the ability to customize share contents. Each week we will assemble a selection of

available items on our CSA member-only web store. Members can login and swap out items to build a share of their choosing. If a member chooses not to customize, they will receive a diverse selection of what is available. If a member wants to add additional items, we will add them to their share and they can pay on our web store.

While our aim is to maximize the amount of flexibility for our members, in some instances items may not be customizable due to limited quantities. We will communicate any other changes to the availability due to unforeseen circumstances (hail, frost, pest damage) as soon as possible.

Going on vacation

Two “vacation weeks” are built into the CSA season. Members can put their delivery on hold at any time for up to two weeks (consecutive or non-consecutive). Members must log onto their account and place a hold on their delivery no later than midnight two days prior to the next scheduled delivery. If a member has already used both of their vacation holds and will be missing additional deliveries, they can still place a delivery on-hold and arrange to pick-up additional produce another week.

Members can also have a friend or family member pick up a delivery at any time. Please note: if a member does not place a hold on delivery and does not pick up a share, the delivery will still be counted and we will donate the unclaimed produce to a local food pantry. No refunds are issued for farm shares not picked up.

Picking Up Your CSA Farm Share

It takes a great deal of coordination to get a farm share harvested and delivered on-time. Members are responsible for picking up their farm share from the pick-up location during the allotted time. This is the only time that weekly shares will be available and produce will not be stored for later distribution. If members need to switch their preferred delivery location for a given week or permanently, please contact us at least two days in advance.

Payment Options

Credit card and check are accepted. (*Bounced checks will incur a \$25 fee*)

Quality Guarantee

We take great pride in our ability to grow beautiful, flavorful, and nutritious vegetables, and aim to get them on our customer’s tables as soon as possible after harvest. If you are unsatisfied with something grown on our farm, please let us know. We commit to replacing the item as soon as possible, and are grateful for the opportunity to improve.

Communication

We are always happy to hear from you. The best way to get in contact with us is

by email at info@riverstoneorganicfarm.com We will do our best to respond as soon as possible. You may also call us at (540) 745-7700. We may be busy in the field, so please leave us a message.

Newsletter

CSA members will receive our weekly newsletter detailing updates and goings-on at the farm. We will include some of our favorite recipes that make use of the vegetables we enjoy growing and cooking.

Social Media

We regularly post pictures of the farm on Instagram [@riverstoneorganicfarm](#) and on Facebook at Riverstone Organic Farm. We love for you to follow us and stay connected!

Refund and Cancellation

By joining Riverstone as a CSA farm share member, you are making a commitment to the farm for the entire growing season. Your payment funds the seeds, supplies, labor, and equipment needed to plant, grow, and harvest the produce we plan on growing for you. We appreciate members staying with the CSA for the entire growing season. If you are completely unsatisfied, please let us know and we will work with you to issue a refund for the remainder of the season.