

GEAUGA FAMILY FARMS ORGANIC CSA –

WHAT IS A CSA?

CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. With this approach, members of the general public become ‘partners’ or ‘shareholders’ with a local farm by purchasing a share of that farm’s growing season. In return, members receive a weekly delivery of fresh produce from the farm. By investing in the farm at the beginning of the growing season, members provide money to the farm when it is most needed. This approach means that what the members receive is tied to the growing conditions - if the weather conditions create a poor harvest, the members may receive a little less. On the other hand, members reap the benefits of good weather. Because the produce is farmed on a smaller scale, it is more nutrient-rich than mass-produced varieties.

WHY MIGHT A CSA PROGRAM BE APPEALING TO ME?

Community supported agriculture provides many benefits to the participants and the community. By participating in this CSA program, you are:

- Supporting 10 small, organic family farms and the agricultural way of life
- Reducing pesticide dependence and degraded soils caused by heavy herbicide and GMO use
- Greatly reducing the amount of resources required to bring healthful food to your table
- Joining a growing community of people who love their weekly delivery of fresh, healthy and delicious produce!

WHAT TYPE OF PRODUCE CAN I EXPECT IN MY SHARE?

The produce of Geauga Family Farms CSA is representative of the tremendous bounty of this region:

TYPICAL VEGETABLES:

Early season - greens, lettuces, sweet peas, green onions, radishes, rhubarb...

Mid-summer - tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, beans, potatoes, greens, cabbage, squash...

TYPICAL FRUIT:

Strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, peaches, apples, watermelon, cantaloupe...

Other items can be added to your weekly share at an additional cost: eggs, cheeses, maple syrup, honey, bread & baked goods

WHAT IF I’M OUT OF TOWN?

You have a few options if you are out of town. You can:

- Arrange to have a friend pick up your share (if you can convince a friend or neighbor to join, you can alternate pick-up duties)
- Do nothing - if your share is not picked up, we will work with your pick-up site to donate the produce to a local shelter

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMING?

Organic farming systems rely on ecologically based practices such as cultural and biological pest management and the exclusion of all synthetic chemicals, antibiotics and hormones in crop and livestock production. Certified organic farms undergo a rigorous 3-year review and testing process to ensure that National Organic Program (NOP) standards are met and upheld.

WHAT FARMS DOES THIS PROGRAM SUPPORT?

A group of 10 certified-organic farmers in Geauga County.

- Parkman Produce (Noah Yutzzy)
- Hershberger Organic (Marvin Hershberger)
- Miller Organic Produce (Andy J. Miller)
- Don-Ana Farms (Donald Anna)
- D & S Farm & Garden (Dan Fisher)
- Lester Hershberger
- Jonas L. Byler
- Thomas C. Byler
- Manna Farms (Dominic Marchese)
- Abner Mcdaniels

WHAT IS THE COST?

There are two share types available:

Single share - $\$400 \div 20 \text{ weeks} = \$20/\text{week}$

Family share - $\$650 \div 20 \text{ weeks} = \$32.50/\text{week}$

(Includes delivery to your drop-off point)

If you wish to pick up your weekly share at the warehouse in Geauga County, you will receive a \$50 discount.

The 20-week season is scheduled to begin in the first week of June and run into October.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SINGLE SHARE AND A FAMILY SHARE?

A **SINGLE SHARE** will provide enough produce for 1-2 people to have several servings throughout the week.

A **FAMILY SHARE** will provide enough produce for 3-4 people to have several servings throughout the week.

Your produce will be provided in a large recyclable bag. Each week you will receive a new, full bag. Recipes are provided via e-mail to help you enjoy your weekly harvest.

IMPORTANT DATES!

The sign-up deadline for the Geauga Family Farms CSA is Saturday, May 1. Before the growing season begins, representatives from Geauga Family Farms are available to speak to your organization to present information on the CSA program, the farms, and to answer any questions you might have.