

Featherbed Lane Farm

2017

CSA Membership Agreement Form



Featherbed Lane Farm

Thank you for being a part of our farm. We know it is a commitment to become a CSA Member and we are very much committed to you too. This CSA Membership Agreement Form is intended to help us review and discuss the details of CSA Membership and to select the Share, pricing and payment plan that is right for you. This Agreement is also a great chance for us to talk through any questions you might have about CSA Membership. It should also serve as a reminder that we encourage communication and that we are available to discuss any questions you may have throughout the year.

We want you to be very happy with your decision to join our CSA and be a part of our farm community. We want to provide you with delicious, healthy and abundant food. We also want our farm to be a special place that you feel connected to and that you enjoy.

2017 CSA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

The CSA model has been in the US for nearly thirty years. It is a model of agriculture that was developed to more closely connect consumers with farming. It was also developed to support farmers by providing them with secure working-capital early and throughout the year. CSA farms now take many shapes and sizes. They are commonly seasonal, often running for roughly 20 weeks. Shares tend to be pre-boxed and it is increasingly common for them to be delivered to off-farm locations.

Featherbed Lane Farm's CSA

Featherbed Lane Farm's CSA is unique. It is designed to be truer to the original intent of the CSA model, to both support the farmer via direct sales as well as provide exceptional food for and build community with our Members. It is also designed to offer more food, week to week and throughout the year, in a more flexible manner.

Ours is a full year CSA. This means you get access to the available products every week of the year, all year round. Our Vegetable Share is also free choice, which means you take as much of the available produce as you want for fresh eating for the week unless there is a limit. We do not pre-box your Share; you take what you want. Limits are only placed on produce if amounts are restricted due to season, yield or for other specific reasons, and they are only placed on produce to ensure all Members get some. If Members would like to preserve produce for winter, pending amounts and the farm's discretion, it may be available at either no cost or at bulk pricing.

Keeping 'Community' in CSA:

Featherbed Lane Farm's community focused CSA includes on-farm pick up. This means that our Members are often at the farm, being a part of its changing and growing throughout the seasons and years. We also offer regular opportunities for Members to directly engage with the farm – from U-pick harvests of certain fruits and vegetables, to farm walks and other on-farm events, to volunteer opportunities for those who want to be more hands on.

We make the farm available to our Members on most days of the week. If you have family or friends in town, for example, we encourage you to bring them out to the farm. You can take walks through the woods and fields, have a picnic and in other ways enjoy this beautiful place. The same is true for our Members who have children. Most children in the Northeast are now multiple generations removed from agriculture. We feel that farms offer children an incredible opportunity to interact with and connect to the world, to understand where their food comes from, to learn about the beauty and the hard work of farming, and to spend positive time outside. We encourage our Members with children to visit often and to enjoy family time at the farm.

Draft Power and Farm Stewardship:

Another distinguishing feature of Featherbed Lane Farm is our work with draft horses. Farming with draft horses requires a different type of planning and a different pace of work than farming with a tractor. It can have many benefits, if done well. We appreciate these challenges and benefits that come from our working relationship with the horses. We like that we can get our 'fuel' for the horses, their hay, from our fields and from neighboring fields. The horses are also an important part of the farm's fertility as they 'contribute' to our compost on a daily basis.

We love working with our horses. They are a very important part of our farm crew and they help with many of the day to day activities on the farm. We have a great deal of respect for their gentle nature, power and ability to work. As such, we do our best to show them our respect by handling them well, keeping them well fed and watered and comfortable, and maintaining their fitness throughout the year with regular work and space to run.

Our work with draft horses is integral to one of our front and center farm goals, which is to build and maintain healthy soils. We carefully direct our work with the horses in concert with the other soil health practices we use on the farm, such as rotations and cover cropping and the application of compost, as we are striving to improve soils for the long term. We intend to turn this farm over someday in even better shape than we found it – to not leave no trace but to leave a good trace.

In addition to our focus on the farm's health, yields and long term sustainability, we are also focused on the stewardship of the entire farmscape. This includes the fields as well as the hedgerows, ponds, wetlands and woods – the farm in its entirety. We manage our farmscape for pollinators and other beneficial insects, birds and bats and the other wildlife that calls Featherbed Lane Farm its home. We are also improving the trail networks and other points of access for our Members. We offer guided hikes and tours, such as spring wildflower walks, in addition to other on-farm events. Our Members are also able to explore on their own. We want to make sure that our Members can connect with and enjoy these special places.

Risk and Reward:

A distinguishing feature of the CSA model is the up-front commitment made by CSA Members. This is an essential part of the model and a primary way in which it benefits a farmer. It provides a farmer with working-capital at a time when many of the year's expenses are due, such as seeds for the season to come. A Member's commitment also provides the farmer with security as they have joined the farm and committed to making their payments for the full year. As a CSA Member at Featherbed Lane Farm, you are making a significant and positive impact.

Another core feature of the commitment made by CSA Members is that they share in the risks and the rewards of farming. CSA Members share in their farm's risks because they have made a down payment, as well as agreed to complete their remaining payments, in advance of the season. Difficult weather conditions, pest pressures and other factors can affect even the most experienced growers such that yields are reduced or even whole crops lost. If these conditions arise, CSA members may receive less of certain farm produce. As a CSA Member, you agree to share in these possible risks. This also means that you are supporting your farm and helping your farmer to pull through some of the most difficult challenges inherent to farming.

On the flip side of the risks are the rewards that come with CSA Membership. When the farm's yields are abundant, CSA Members benefit from the bounty. This is particularly true for the free choice model at Featherbed Lane Farm. When yields are plentiful, our Members receive unlimited access to that produce. An estimate of the expected types of produce that may be available can be found in the *2017 Sample Produce Calendar*.

As your CSA farmers, we are very committed to you. We will do our best to provide you with abundant and nutritious foods throughout the year. We commit to providing all of the other benefits that come with your Membership. We also hope that you will want to remain as CSA Members in the years to come. With your continued support and input we can tailor the Shares to provide you with the food you want, in the amounts that you want and throughout as much of the year as possible. We can also continue to evolve the other benefits of CSA Membership such that can enjoy this farm even more.

Access to the Farm for Members:

In addition to your Share, CSA Members can visit the farm on most days of the week throughout the year, by yourself or with family and friends. While Members are not required to schedule visits in advance, advance notice is appreciated. The more advance notice the better but a simple call before arriving at the farm is fine.

We ask Members to sign in and out of the farm using a notebook/clipboard located near the parking lot. This helps us to keep track of who is at that farm and at what times. In general, it is important for us to know who is on the farm but it is particularly important in case any emergency were to occur, such as lightning storm or other extreme weather conditions.

The farm is open for Members to visit year round, from sunrise to sunset, on Tuesdays through Saturdays. The farm is closed to visits on Sundays and Mondays. If you have a special circumstance, and only Sunday or Monday work for your visit, please contact us.

Farm Rules:

➤ **Supervision of Children:**

- We want children to enjoy and experience the farm but only in a safe and supervised way. For their safety, and for the safety of other Members, farmers and working animals, all children must always be accompanied and supervised by their parents or an adult caregiver.

➤ **CSA Pick-Up Times:**

- As a CSA Member, you come to the farm each week to pick up your Share. Pick-up will be held every Saturday, from 9am-1pm.
- This is the only day and time-period during which you can come to the farm to pick up your share, unless you have made an alternate arrangement with a farmer or if the Pick-Up schedule is changed due to a holiday or for other reasons as determined by the farm. If the Pick-Up schedule is changed, you will receive advanced notice.
- If you can't make it to a pick-up, you can donate your Share to a friend who will come to the farm in your place. You can also call us, at least one day before regular Pick-Up, to box and hold your Share, which you will then pick up at an agreed upon time at the farm.
- Pick-up for the 2017 CSA Membership will begin on/around June 3rd.

➤ **Honor System Pick-Up:**

- Ours is a free choice CSA. Unless there is a stated limit on produce, Members can take as much as they would like to eat for the week and based on the people for whom they have purchased a Vegetable Share.
- We do not monitor what you take for your weekly Share, unless there is a limit or a limited amount. We trust our Members to take only the food for which they paid.

➤ **Farm Visits:**

- The farm is open for Members to visit year round, from Sunrise to sunset, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- The farm is closed to visits on Sundays and Mondays. If these are the only days that work for you to visit, or if you have a special circumstance, please contact us to discuss alternative arrangements.
- Please sign-in and sign-out when you visit the farm

➤ **Respectful Behavior:**

- Please always be respectful to the farm, the forests and fields, the buildings and all else that makes up this farmscape. Please treat this place as you would treat something that you care for and to which you are responsible.
- No smoking on the farm.
- No drinking on the farm, unless there is a special event being hosted by the farm that includes or allows for alcohol. If this is the case, please drink responsibly and only in designated areas.
- No fires on the farm, unless there is a special event being hosted by the farm. In this case, fires can only be started by farmers and managed by farmers.

➤ **Property Boundaries:**

- Be mindful of our neighbors and do not cross onto their property without permission and without understanding where you are welcome to be. Please contact us to discuss the property boundaries and the areas to which you have access.
- Please abide by all posted signs

- **Farm Conditions and the Weather:**
 - Dress appropriately for your farm visits, preparing for the cold, ice, mud and other conditions you may encounter on the farm. If you aren't sure about the right clothing or gear to wear on your visits, please contact us.
 - Weather can change quickly. Please be mindful of the forecasts, and take time to learn about safe behavior in the event of a storm or other unexpected conditions.
- **Pets**
 - Dogs, cats and any other pets should not be brought to the farm, unless they are certified service animals. If you have a special request, regarding bringing your pet to the farm, please contact us to discuss.
- **Poison Ivy:**
 - There is poison ivy on the farm. If you are not familiar with what it looks like or how to identify it, in order to avoid touching it, please ask us.
- **Farm Ponds:**
 - The farm ponds are beautiful places to watch for Kingfishers, Great Blue Herons, other birds and wildlife. We do not allow swimming in the ponds. If you would like to bring a canoe, or enjoy the pond in some other way, contact us to get clarification and approval.
- **Farm House:**
 - We love having our Members on the farm. We also appreciate having personal places on the farm, such as our house. We ask that our Members respect the boundaries of our home during their visits.
- **Safety on a Working Farm:**
 - While the farm is open to Members on most days of the week, it is a working farm. Members should be aware of and maintain a safe distance from working animals, moving, sharp and otherwise dangerous equipment or tools, and other farm risks.
 - Please do not pick up or play with any tools or other farm implements.
 - Barns and other buildings on the farm, including the greenhouses, are working structures. They are not for playing in, on or around. Farmers and/or teams of horses come in and around the barns throughout the day, sometimes with tools and other equipment that could injure someone who is not paying attention or who is in the wrong place.
 - If you are unsure about a situation, a place on the farm you would like to go or an activity on the farm you would like to do, please contact us.
- **Electric Fencing:**
 - We use electric fencing on the farm. Assume that all fencing is electrified and please do not touch.
- **Farm Animals:**
 - Maintain a safe and respectful distance from all farm animals in order to avoid accidents or making the animals nervous. There will be on-farm events and other opportunities that allow for fun and safe interaction with the animals.
 - If you would like to visit with our livestock at other times, you must contact us first to get clarification and approval.

CSA Membership Benefits Package:

In addition to your Share, CSA Membership includes the following benefits:

- On-Farm Events – Throughout the year, we host on-farm events for CSA Members only, including winter sleigh rides, wagon rides to harvest pumpkins, fall camping on the farm and more.
- U-Pick Harvests – Certain crops, such as strawberries, snap peas and cherry tomatoes are available for CSA Members to pick for fresh eating and at no charge, as an addition to what comes with your Share.
- Making the Most of your Share – We will host demos on preserving foods, such as making sauerkraut or putting up peas and greens, provide you with recipes and in other ways help you to enjoy your Share as much as possible and to make the most of it.
- Access to the Farm – The farm is open to CSA Members on most days of the week. You can come to the farm to picnic in a field, take a walk in the woods and more. If you like being hands-on, you can also volunteer on the farm.
- Being a Part of the Community – As a CSA Member, you become an important part of this farm and community, connecting with others who share an affinity for wholesome foods and sustainable agriculture. Weekly pick-ups, on-farm events and regular emails and social media updates help to keep us all in touch.

2017 CSA MEMBERSHIP AND SHARE OPTIONS

Share Options:

When you sign-up to become a CSA Member, you choose the number and types of Shares you would like to purchase. Please note that Egg Shares are only available for CSA Members who purchase Vegetable Shares.

Vegetable Share: Adult Vegetable Shares are priced according to the number of Adult Shares per household. There are discounts for families and roommates. Children's Shares are priced according to age. Children 12 years and older are counted as adults. Children under 5 are free.

Vegetable Shares Adult	Total Per Month	Total Per Year	Savings
Individual Adult	\$120	\$1,440	
Household - 2 Adults	\$200	\$2,400	\$480
Household - 3 Adults	\$260	\$3,120	\$1,200
Household - 4 Adults	\$320	\$3,840	\$1,920

Vegetable Shares Children	Total Per Month	Total Per Year
Children - 0 to 4	\$0	\$0
Children - 5 to 8	\$30	\$360
Children - 9 to 11	\$40	\$480

Egg Share: Egg Shares are sold on a credit system. To buy eggs, you make a down payment to establish a credit. You then draw against that credit whenever you take eggs during pick-up. If you expend all of your credit, you can make another down payment to reestablish it. Eggs are priced at \$4/Half-dozen, \$6/Dozen and \$10/Two-dozen.

Preferred Payment Options:

There are five preferred payment options for your CSA Share:

1. Paid in full (10% discount)
2. 75% down payment with two 12.5% installments (5% discount)
3. 50% down payment with two 25% installments (2.5% discount)
4. 25% down payment with three 25% installments (no discount)
5. 20% down payment with monthly installments (no discount)

Please remember, whatever payment option you choose, we are counting on your full and on-time payments for the entire year. We order seeds and take on other significant expenses early in the season in order to prepare for your Share. We are asking you to make a full year commitment to us, as a CSA Member and as per this Agreement, and we are making the same to you.

Sliding Scale Pricing and Additional Payment Options:

We want everyone to have access to nutritious food. If you aren't able to afford the full value of a Share, but you want to become a CSA Member, we offer a sliding scale on our prices. We will try to work with you to find a mutually agreeable price for your Shares. As needed, we can also discuss alternative payment plans that might better suit your needs. Your price and payment plan will be discussed and agreed upon when you become a Member.

Supporting Reduced Price Shares:

We offer a sliding scale on our prices in order to help our community members who are committed to getting their food at Featherbed Lane Farm but who aren't able to afford the full value of a Share. Making the sliding scale work for the farm requires that we recoup this lost revenue elsewhere. To do this, we accept contributions from those who are able to help. CSA Members who would like to support reduced price Shares can do so when they sign up or at any time.

A Note on Share Prices and Paying Farmers Fairly:

Our goal is to compensate our employees fairly for their hard work. We pay above minimum wage to all farm employees, which is a very uncommon practice. We also hope to generate a livable income for ourselves from this farm. Earning a livable income from one's farm while also paying employees above minimum wage is a serious challenge in agriculture.

We strive to balance the true costs of producing food well, stewarding a farm, and supporting farmers while still offering a fair price to our Members. We have set our prices with respect to these considerations.

2017 SHARE SELECTION, PRICE, PAYMENT METHOD AND SCHEDULE

Vegetable Share Selection:

Type	Number	Price	Sub-Total	Discount (for multiple adult shares per household)	Total

Vegetable Share Payment Option and Price:

Payment Option Selected	Payment Option Discount (if applicable)	Vegetable Share Total (with all applicable discounts)

Egg Share:

Credit Deposit:

Total Share Price:

Vegetable	Egg	Grand Total

Payment Method and Schedule:

- Payments should be made on or before the dates agreed to below.
- 2017 Payments can only be made by check.
- Make checks payable to: Featherbed Lane Farm, LLC

Paid in Full: _____

Down Payment: _____

Remaining Payment: _____

Remaining Payment Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payment Amount</u>
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Changes to Payment Plan:

The payment plan remains in place for one year or until your payments are completed. It is, however, possible to make adjustments. Adjustments to your payment plan can only be made with mutual consent between you and the farm. Should you need to make an adjustment, we ask that you provide as much advance notice as possible. Please contact us to schedule a meeting before making any changes. During this meeting, we will try to find and agree upon a new payment plan that works for you and for the farm.

If your payment is late, we may talk with you during pick-up and/or by phone. You may also receive an email notice asking that you make your payment by or before the next scheduled pick-up. If there are extenuating circumstances regarding your late payments, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss and to make alternative arrangements. If your payments due are not received by the pick-up following your initial late payment notice, and if a mutually agreed upon alternative was not made, you may receive an email indicating that your Share is on hold. You may not be able to pick up your Share until your payments have been made. Your Share may be cancelled if you will no longer be making your payments.

Cancellation:

We very much hope this will not happen but, if you become unable to pick-up your Share, please contact as soon as possible to discuss options for cancelling your Membership. As the farm has already made significant investments to produce your food for the year, we may not provide refunds for Share payments made prior to cancellation. Further, if you have not completed all of your payments, we ask you to consider doing so. If you are unable or unwilling to do so, we ask that you consider paying some portion of your remaining payments. We very much appreciate the commitment you have made to the farm as we have also committed to you.

Communication:

The primary purposes of this Agreement are two-fold: 1) We want to establish a shared understanding about your CSA Membership at Featherbed Lane Farm; 2) We want to encourage proactive communication with all of our CSA Members. We believe good communication is the heart of good relationships. Should you have any questions or concerns, we ask that you contact us at your earliest convenience. If we are unable to respond immediately, as we may be in the fields or otherwise unavailable, we will always do our best to respond in a timely manner. We want to hear from you and we want to work with you.

Should there be any changes to the CSA Membership, such as a change in the CSA Pick-Up schedule or an update to the farm's rules, we will contact you in advance to provide explanation and notice. Whenever possible, we will solicit Member's input on important decisions. We also look to our Members to provide suggestions about how to improve the CSA. It may not be possible to address all suggestions but we will take note of them and we will make adjustments over time that reflect our Member's preferences.

Farm Contact Information:

Tim Biello
35 Featherbed Lane
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Cell Phone: (518) 207-7224
tim@featherbedlanefarm.com

The Years Ahead:

This is a very exciting year at Featherbed Lane Farm: our first year of CSA Memberships! We have worked for years to find this farm, to gain the necessary experience and livestock and equipment, to prepare the fields, to develop the business and plans, and to create a CSA that is unique and community focused. We are developing this farm to produce a year round supply of the healthy and delicious foods that you want and as much of them as you want. We want to build up the farm's soils and improve this land's capacity to support agriculture long into the future. We want to see more livestock join us on the farm, such as sheep or goats or bees, to manage habitats, add fertility, serve as pollinators and more. We want this farm to be a good home for wildlife. We want this farm to be a beautiful, magical place that we can all enjoy and connect to throughout each year and into the years ahead.

Our CSA Members make this possible. As our very first CSA Members, this is even truer. You are making a commitment to us and to the upcoming year. We are very grateful for your support. We are making a commitment to you too.

2017 CSA Membership Agreement

We have reviewed the content of this 2017 CSA Membership Agreement form and we agree to work together to fulfill the commitments we have made to one another.

CSA Member Signature

Date:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

Farm Owner and Manager Signature

Date:

Name: