

CSA MEMBER HANDBOOK

2026

Written by Camilla Olsen, Owner



MEET YOUR FARMER

My name is Cami, owner of Faye Flowers, LLC.
I consider flower farming my passion profession. More importantly, I'm a mother of two beautiful babies. I've also worked as a nurse for six years.

I was born and raised in Warroad, MN but came to Bemidji for college. This is where I met my husband and we have since built our life here.

Creating beauty, sharing it with others, all while doing my part to "save the world" is really what it's all about for me. Your CSA membership means more than business to me - it means community, love and strength.

faye-flowers@outlook.com



04 - 06

WHAT IS A FLOWER CSA?

what does it mean, risks & benefits, what's included

07 - 09

HOW DOES IT WORK?

payment, delivery and pickup, timing

10 - 11

ABOUT THE FARM

growing practices, sourcing

11 - 12

COMMUNICATION

contacting your farmer, changes to your membership

WHAT IS A FLOWER CSA?

CSA stands for "Community Supported Agriculture." You may be familiar with meat or produce CSAs, but this is a great option for flowers as well! This concept allows members to purchase a share of a farm's products in advance, allowing the farmer to cover expenses for farm operations.

RISK AND BENEFITS

RISK

Being a member of any farm CSA does come with risk. All sales are final and non-refundable because of the nature of farming. Mother Nature has her own plans, sometimes leading to crop failure or loss. Farmers absorb this loss through all other sales outlets. However, CSA members help alleviate this by funding CSA expenses up front. This allows the farmer to continue growing, regardless of crop loss, which in turn benefits CSA members as they receive a product any time the farm is productive.

BENEFITS AND PERKS

The benefits of buying into a CSA membership greatly outweighs the risk!

- Members receive the very best of any crop the farmer produces, regardless of other sales outlets. Our farm also provides flowers for sale at our Farmstand, custom orders, pop-up events, paid donations, and through Sanford Bemidji Medical Center's gift shop. This is our promise to you that our CSA members will have their bouquets created first with the best of any crop we produce.
- Members of the 3 bi-weekly CSA receive 5% off all other Faye Flowers website and Farmstand products during the growing season as well as a 5% discount off next season's CSA if they choose to renew
- Members of the 6 bi-weekly CSA receive 10% off all other Faye Flowers website and Farmstand products during the growing season as well as a 10% discount off next season's CSA if they choose to renew
- Every member receives a \$25.00 Faye Flowers gift card which can be used for yourself for a little extra treat or can be gifted to anyone you like!
- Members of the FIRST season's (2026) 6 bi-weekly CSA will be eligible for grandfathered pricing! This means members will never pay a higher base price (excluding delivery fee and tax changes) if they choose to renew their membership every season. If a member does not renew their CSA, this grandfathered pricing is no longer valid.
- All 2026 members are eligible to be placed into a drawing for 25% off next season's CSA by completing the end of season feedback survey and providing a testimonial and allowing the farmer to use this publicly (anonymously if you wish).
- First notification of any upcoming sales or special events
- Early bird access to next season's CSA membership and other sale promotions

- You'll automatically join a community of other flower lovers. One of our biggest reasons for starting a CSA is to establish a community that can grow closer and grow in numbers over time.
- You'll be added to the farm's quarterly newsletter so you can know exactly what's been going on at the farm and to learn even more about our regenerative growing practices.
- There may even be the occasional add-on bouquet or item in case of a "bumper crop!"
- That feeling that you know something exciting is going to happen as you anticipate your flower delivery or pickup day. I know I always have to have something to look forward to and flowers fit that bill!

WHAT'S INCLUDED

 3 - 6 beautifully designed, hand-tied bouquets either delivered right to your doorstep or safely kept at the Farmstand for pickup

HOW DOES IT WORK?

PAYMENT

CSA memberships are purchased on our website on a first-come, first-serve basis. We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover Card, Google Pay, Apple Pay, and Klarna.

Your CSA cannot be reserved. Memberships are only valid once payment has been received.

DELIVERY/PICKUP & TIMING

Each delivery and pickup day is pre-determined as follows: Spring Bi-Weekly Sampler

- June 8th
- June 22nd
- July 6th

Summer Bi-Weekly Sampler

- August 3rd
- August 17th
- August 31st

All-Season Bi-Weekly

- June 15th
- June 29th
- July 13th
- July 27th
- August 10th
- August 24th

Deliveries can be made to your home or place of work as long as it is within 10 miles of Bemidji, MN. Deliveries are made on these pre-determined dates. The farmer will do their best to place your bouquet in a protected space near your front door if you are not home to receive the delivery. If you choose the delivery option, please specify where you would like your bouquet left in the event that you are not present to receive it. We do ask that you place some sort of vessel/vase outside with fresh water for the flowers to stay hydrated.

In the case that a delivery cannot be made on a predetermined date due to unforeseen circumstances, the farmer will notify members as soon as possible and schedule a make-up delivery date.

If you are wanting your bouquet delivered to a different address, please contact your farmer at least 72 hours prior to the designated delivery date. The new address will be temporarily used for one delivery and MUST be within 10 miles of Bemidji, MN. Changes made less than 72 hours prior to the delivery date may not be honored. If you are needing flowers delivered to a different address more than once, you will need to notify your farmer each subsequent time.

Farmstand pickup will start at 7:00 a.m. on these dates. If your bouquet is not picked up by 7:00 p.m. on the Tuesday directly following, your bouquet will be donated through our Sunshine Program. This program allows customers to fund donated bouquets for patients at the Sanford Bemidji Medical Center.

To keep everyone organized, Farmstand pickup members will have their first names and last initial written on a card in the CSA pickup area. When picking up your bouquet, please initial the correct pickup date slot on your card as confirmation. This helps the farmer identify anyone who may not have picked up their bouquet.

If you contact us 24 hours or more prior to the 7:00 pickup time, you may receive an additional 24 hour hold on your bouquet. We don't recommend this as the Farmstand is not environmentally regulated. Flowers may suffer from heat, wind, or pest stress.

You may also send someone to pick up your bouquet on your behalf without notice to the Farmer. We have yet to experience theft at the Farmstand. If this becomes an issue, this policy is subject to change.

There is a security camera installed at the Farmstand as well as signage to notify customers that it is in use. If your CSA bouquet was stolen please contact your farmer as soon as possible. We can come to an agreement on a case by case basis to make it right.

Reminders for pickup/delivery days will not be sent. It is up to each member to make note of their delivery/pickup dates. Please mark these on your calendars immediately.

ABOUT THE FARM

GROWING PRACTICES

This farm uses a technique of farming known as "regenerative farming." You have likely heard of organic farming. Organic farming is based on the principle of doing the least amount of harm possible. Regenerative farming is very similar with the caveat that our general principle is to heal the environment rather than just avoiding harm.

This involves little to no fertilization. If "fertilizer" is used, it is at a minimum organic certified but often comes from sources already provided by nature. We do our best to avoid any non-biological inputs.

Our regenerative farm is also considered "low till," meaning that when a new growing space is prepped, we may shallow till but beds are then maintained without tillage thereafter. This allows the soil to continue to heal and build its own microbiome.

The soil on the farm is sandy, making it tricky to conserve water during the hot summer months. We are continuing to gain infrastructure for drip irrigation as well as rainwater collection. We also heavily mulch to keep soil cool and covered, thereby decreasing each plants' water needs.

Native pollinators and wildlife habitat are extremely important to a healthy ecosystem. We incorporate new native plant varieties every year and minimally mow our property to foster this natural environment. If natural resources are removed from the property, they're put to use elsewhere on the farm. Waste is also composted or kept as mulch.

There are many other small differences our farm incorporates. If you'd like to continue to learn more about this subject, find our Blog page <u>here</u>.

SOURCING

We do our very best to use only flowers grown here on our farm. In case of crop failure or low yields, flowers may occasionally be sourced from other local, state or American farms. All other farm supplies are also often sourced from American or Canadian companies or likely purchased second-hand to reduce equipment waste.

COMMUNICATION

CONTACTING YOUR FARMER

Each CSA member is added to the farm's quarterly newsletter as well as an email group just for CSA members. These emails will be the primary method of communication for any upcoming announcements, changes or promotions specific to CSA members.

If you are needing to contact the farm at any time, please find our <u>Contact</u> page and fill out the form. We do ask for a minimum of 1 week for response time to emails. You may also try sending social media messages to our <u>Facebook</u> or Instagram accounts. These account messages may be checked less frequently.

We do not currently have the availability to take phone calls.

CHANGES TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

All sales are final. However, changes can be made on a case-by-case basis. Life happens and circumstances change. If you are unable to be present for any length of time, please contact your farmer to work out an alternative. For example, if you purchased the 3 bi-weekly spring sampler but unexpectedly have to be out of town for an extended period of time, your farmer may have availability to add you to the summer sampler instead. If a substitute such as this is not possible, your leftover bouquets may be eligible for replacement at another time.

One of our main goals in creating this CSA program is to create a community. We are a small, local business that wants our members to feel like family. If at any time you have a concern or request, it is always best to ask and we will do our best!

WE ARE A GOOD FIT IF....

- You love the idea of having fresh, local flowers on display in your home on a regular basis
- It gives you warm feelings to support a small, local farming family
- You appreciate the work we do here to regenerate the Earth and keep our farming practices sustainable

WE ARE NOT A GOOD FIT IF

- You are not local to the Bemidji area or don't have a family member local to the Bemidji area
- You are not home often during the subscription period(s)
- You don't like flowers! (But let's be honest, I don't know anyone that falls into this category).

THANK YOU



Most of all, I'd like to thank any and all members for taking this journey with us. The year of 2026 marks the first CSA season for us. Members of this season are extra special. I consider you my "core members," and hope to see you all here for seasons to come!

Please do NOT hesitate to contact us at any time. There will be a comprehensive CSA season survey, but if you have feedback at ANY time I will gladly accept it.

Yours Truly,

Cami ()/sen