



2020 CSA Membership Agreement

June 6th, 2020 – May 29th, 2021

Thank you for choosing to support local agriculture and be a special part of the community at [Featherbed Lane Farm](#). We know it is a commitment to become a CSA Member. We appreciate your decision to prioritize healthy, local and seasonal foods, as well as farms and farmers practicing sustainable and responsible agriculture. We are very much committed to you too.

This CSA Membership Agreement is intended to help us discuss the details of your Membership and select the Share, pricing and payment plan that is right for you. Our review of this Agreement is an opportunity for us to talk through any questions you might have about CSA Membership and to ensure a good fit. It should also serve as a reminder that we encourage open communication. We are available to you throughout the year.

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

2020 CSA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

The CSA model has been in the United States for over thirty years. It is a model of agriculture designed to more closely connect people with farming. It was also developed to support farmers by providing them with secure working-capital early and throughout the year. CSA farms take many shapes and sizes. They are typically 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. Our CSA is designed to be truer to the original intent of the CSA model, to support the farmer via direct sales as well as provide exceptional food for, and build community with, our Members. Our CSA 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 have access to the available products every week of the year, all year round. Our Vegetable Share is 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 to ensure all Members have equal access to the produce. If you 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 our Members are regularly at the farm, connecting with the farm and the farmers throughout the seasons and years. We offer additional opportunities for Members to directly engage with the farm, such as the Discovery Garden, U-Pick harvests of flowers and certain fruits and vegetables, farm walks, wagon and sleigh rides, and other on-farm events. We offer volunteer opportunities for those who want to be more hands-on. We also make the farm available to CSA Members, as a place to walk, picnic and enjoy.

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 the 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 daily.

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 – 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 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 wildlife that call Featherbed Lane Farm home. We are improving the trail networks and other points of access for our Members. We periodically offer guided hikes and tours, such as Spring wildflower walks, in addition to other on-farm events. Members are also able to explore on their own. We want to make sure you can 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. At a time when many of the year's expenses are due, such as seeds for the season to come, the CSA provides a farmer with working capital. Each Member's commitment also provides the farmer with security as they have joined the farm and agreed to make their payments for the full term. 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 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, and agreed to complete all 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, or even none of, certain produce. As a CSA Member, you agree to share in these possible risks. This also means 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 full access to the farm's produce. An estimate of the expected types of produce that may be available throughout the year can be found in the *2020 Produce Calendar*.

As your CSA farm, we are very committed to you. We will do our best to provide you with abundant and nutritious foods all year and we commit to providing all the other benefits that come with your Membership. We hope you will want to remain as a CSA Member for the years to come too. With your continued support and input, we can tailor the Share to provide you with the food you want, in the amounts 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 you enjoy this farm even more as a direct result of being an active part of it over time.

Access to the Farm for Members:

In addition to your Share, the farm is open for Members to visit year-round, from sunrise to sunset, on Mondays through Saturdays. The farm is closed to visits on Sundays. However, if you have a special circumstance, and only Sunday works for your visit, please contact us. Generally, we can accommodate your schedule. We always want to encourage your enjoyment of the farm.

You can take walks through the woods and fields, have a picnic and in other ways experience this beautiful place. We hope all Members visit, and we especially encourage visits with children. Most children in the Northeast are many generations removed from agriculture. We feel farms offer them 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. The farm is a wonderful place for friends and family time.

We ask Members to inform the farm, via email or text, in advance of all visits during times other than CSA Pickup. This helps us know who is at that farm and when. In general, it is important for us to know this information, but it is particularly important in case of an emergency.

Farm Rules:

➤ **Supervision of Children:**

- Children must **always** be accompanied and supervised by a parent or adult caregiver, for their safety, and the safety of all Members, farmers and others. We want children to enjoy the farm but always in a safe and supervised way.

➤ **CSA Pick-Up Times:**

- As a CSA Member, you come to the farm each week to pick up your Share.
- The 2020 CSA begins on June 6th, 2020 and runs thru May 29th, 2021.
- CSA Pickup is held every Saturday, from 9am-1pm.
 - This is the only day and time-period during which you can come to the farm to box your own free choice Share. However, if you can't make a Saturday Pickup, you do have other options (*please see the next bullet*).
- If you are unable to make a Saturday Pickup, you have multiple alternatives:
 - You can ask someone to get your Share for you and bring it to you.
 - You can gift your Share to someone who will come to the farm in your place.
 - You can ask us to box your Share by emailing the farm any time during the week before 10am on Saturday. We will store your Share for the weekend, then put it in the Farm Store on the following Monday at 3pm. You can come by any time after 3pm on that Monday to pick it up.
 - You can take an extra week's worth of food, if you know you will be unable to make the following week's Pickup. Please first check in with the Farm Manager or CSA Manager for confirmation and to see if there are any limits.
- If the Pickup schedule is changed, due to a holiday or for other reasons as determined by the farm, you will receive advanced notice.

➤ **Honor System Pick-Up:**

- Ours is a free choice CSA. Unless there is a stated limit on produce, you can take as much as you want to eat *for the week* based on the number of Shares you purchased.
- We do not monitor what you take for your weekly Share, unless there is a stated limit in place. 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 any day but Sunday. If Sunday is the only day that works for your visit, or if you have a special circumstance, please contact us. We will try to accommodate if possible.
- You must always contact us, via email or text, in advance of your visits if you are coming to the farm during a day or time other than CSA Pickup.

➤ **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 you care for and to which you are responsible.
- No smoking or vaping on the farm.
- No drinking alcohol on the farm, unless there is a special event hosted by the farm that allows for it. If so, 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 and managed by farmers or those who are specifically designated by the farmers.

➤ **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 all 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 greenhouses, are working structures. They are not for playing in, on or around. Farmers and teams of horses are working throughout the day, sometimes with tools and other equipment that could injure someone who is not paying attention or 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 all fences are electric and 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 any livestock, you must always contact us in advance to discuss and get 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.

➤ **Farm Ponds:**

- The farm ponds are beautiful places to watch for Kingfishers, Great Blue Herons, other birds and wildlife. Swimming in the ponds is not allowed. If you would like to bring a canoe, or enjoy the pond in some other way, you must contact us in advance to discuss your plans and get approval.

➤ **Farm Conditions and the Weather:**

- Dress appropriately for your farm visits, preparing for the heat, cold, rain, ice, mud and any other conditions you may encounter on the farm. If you aren't sure about the right clothing or gear to wear for 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.

➤ **Property Boundaries:**

- Be respectful of our neighbors and do not cross onto their property without permission. Please contact us to discuss the property boundaries and the areas to which you have access before exploring. You must abide by all posted signs.

➤ **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.

➤ **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 in advance.

CSA Membership Benefits Package:

In addition to your Share, CSA Membership at Featherbed Lane Farm includes other benefits:

- On-Farm Events – We periodically host on-farm events including winter sleigh rides, wagon rides to harvest pumpkins, farm yoga, and more.
- U-Pick Harvests – Certain crops, such as cherry tomatoes, flowers, green beans, herbs, snap peas and strawberries are available for CSA Members to U-Pick. These harvests are typically available to Members at no charge or, if there is a charge, at a discounted rate.
- Discovery Garden – There is a Discovery Garden on the farm. This is a place for all Members, adults and children, to enjoy. There are flowers for pollinators as well as for Members to cut and bring home, herbs and other U-Pick plants for your Share, small walking paths, gourd and bean huts, and other secrets to explore and enjoy.
- Making the Most of your Share – We provide recipes, cooking ideas and nutritional facts, host demonstrations, connect Members with resources for preserving and preparing foods, and in other ways help you enjoy your Share and make the most of it.
- Access to the Farm – The farm is open to CSA Members every day of the week except Sundays. You can visit 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.
- Access to Products from Other Local Farms – We often collaborate with our neighbors and farm friends to offer additional products for sale to CSA Members, such as local honey, maple syrup, meats, yarn and other products from local farms and business owners.
- Being a Part of the Community – As a CSA Member, you are an important part of this farm and community, connecting with others who share an affinity for wholesome foods and sustainable agriculture. The weekly on-farm Pickup, a weekly newsletter and regular social media updates as well as on-farm events help to keep us connected.

2020 CSA MEMBERSHIP AND SHARE OPTIONS

Share Options:

Vegetable Share: Adult Vegetable Shares are priced according to the number of Adult Shares per household. A discount is included for families and housemates. Children's Shares are priced according to age. Children 12 years and older are priced as adults. Children under 5 are free.

Vegetable Shares Adult	Total Per Month	Total Per Year	Savings
Individual Adult	\$130	\$1,560	
Household - 2 Adults	\$240	\$2,880	\$240
Household - 3 Adults	\$325	\$3,900	\$780
Household - 4 Adults	\$390	\$4,680	\$1,560

Vegetable Shares Children	Total Per Month	Total Per Year
Children - 0 to 5	\$0	\$0
Children - 6 to 11	\$40	\$480

Egg Share: Egg Shares are available 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 pickup. If you expend your credit, you can make another down payment at any time to reestablish it. Eggs are priced at \$6/dozen and \$10/two-dozen.

You will choose from the Share options based on who – you, your family and/or your housemates – will be eating the farm's produce each week. Please note, Egg Shares are only available for CSA Members who purchase Vegetable Shares.

Preferred Payment Options:

There are four preferred payment options for your CSA Share:

1. Pay in full (*up to a 5% discount*)
2. 75% down payment with one 25% installment (*up to 5% discount*)
3. 50% down payment with two 25% installments (*up to a 2.5% discount*)
4. 25% down payment with three 25% installments (*no discount*)

**Installment payments must be made by or before the first Pickup of each month during which the payments are due.*

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 have other significant expenses early in the season to prepare for the CSA. We are asking you to make a full year commitment to us, including completing all payments in full, as a CSA Member and per this Agreement. We are likewise making a full year commitment to you.

Sliding Scale Pricing and Additional Payment Options:

We want everyone to have access to nutritious food. If you can't 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 Share. 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 sign up for your Membership.

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 can't afford the full value of a Share. Making the sliding scale work for the farm requires we recoup this lost revenue elsewhere. We accept contributions from those who can 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:

We are focused on compensating our employees fairly for their hard work. We pay above minimum wage to all farm employees, which is a very uncommon practice on farms. We also hope to generate a livable income for ourselves. Earning a livable income from farming is a serious challenge, especially when also trying to respect social and ecological interests. We strive to balance the true costs of producing food well, including stewarding the farm's soils and waters and wildlife habitats, supporting our farmers, and undertaking efforts to make our food affordable and accessible to anyone who wants it. We set our prices, while offering special pricing and payment arrangements, with respect to these considerations.

Featherbed Lane Farm – 2020 CSA Member Agreement

SHARE SELECTION, PRICING, AND PAYMENT PLAN

June 6th, 2020 – May 29th, 2021

We will complete this page and the signature page together when you sign-up for the CSA

Vegetable Share:

Type	Number	Price	Sub-Total	Multiple Shares Discount	Renewing Member Discount	Total

Payment Plan: _____

Additional Discounts, Sliding Scale and Totals:

- Preferred Payment Option Discount: _____
- Early Sign-up Discount (*Jan – April 2020*): _____
- **Total Additional Discount (% / \$):** _____

- **Vegetable Share Sub-Total** (*Including Additional Discounts*): _____
- **Sliding Scale Value** (*If applicable*): _____

Vegetable Share Total (*Including all discounts and sliding scale*): _____

Egg Share Total: _____

Donation Share Value: _____

The Donation Share is an optional contribution you can make to support the farm in offering a sliding scale to others who are unable to pay full value for their CSA Memberships

GRAND TOTAL: _____

- Referral Benefits (*If applicable*): _____
 - Referred by: _____

Payment Method and Schedule:

- Payments must be made by the dates agreed to below
- Payments must be made by the first Pickup of the month during which they are due
- Payments must be made in cash or by check payable to: Featherbed Lane Farm, LLC

Down Payment: _____

Remaining Payment: _____

Remaining Payment Schedule: _____

Changes to Payment Plan:

The payment plan remains in place for the duration of the 2020 CSA or until your payments are completed. Adjustments to your payment plan can only be made with mutual consent between you and the farm. Should you need to make adjustments to your payment plan, we ask you provide the farm with as much advance notice as possible. Please contact us to schedule a meeting before making any changes. During this meeting, we will try to develop 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 Pickup or by phone. You may also receive an email notice asking you to make your payment by or before the next scheduled Pickup. If there are extenuating circumstances regarding your late payments, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss and make alternative arrangements. If your payments due are not received by the Pickup following your initial late payment notice, and if a mutually agreed upon alternative was not made, you may receive an email indicating your Share is on hold. You may not be able to pick up your Share until your payments have been submitted. Your Membership may be cancelled if you will not fulfill your payments. However, we hope this will never happen and we will work with you in hopes of finding a better alternative.

Cancellation:

We very much hope this will not happen but, if you become unable or unwilling to continue your Membership during the 2020 CSA, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss cancellation. As the farm has already made significant investments to produce your food for the year, we will not provide refunds for Share payments. Further, if you have not completed your installment payments, we ask you to fulfill this Agreement and make all remaining payments in full – even if you cancel your CSA Membership. An alternative is to have someone buy your Membership from you and begin picking up a Share in your place. Finding someone to buy your Share is the Member's responsibility. We will make all reasonable efforts to help you remain as a CSA Member or to find an alternative arrangement that works for you and the farm.

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, and 2) We want to encourage proactive communication with all CSA Members. We believe open communication is fundamental to good relationships, and we hope this will be a wonderful experience for you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at your earliest convenience. We truly appreciate your Membership and support of the farm. We want to hear from you, and we want to support you too.

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

The Years Ahead:

This is the fourth year of CSA Memberships at Featherbed Lane Farm! We are excited to again offer a year-round supply of healthy, delicious and sustainably grown foods to our Members and to continue making improvements to our farm and CSA. We worked for many years to get to this point – gaining the necessary experience and honing the business plans, acquiring livestock and equipment, locating and securing tenure on this farm, preparing and maintaining the fields, and beginning the CSA in 2017. All our efforts have been directed towards creating a CSA farm that produces the highest quality foods, nourishes the land and is unique and community focused.

We conserved the property in 2019 to ensure it is forever farmland and we hope to purchase the farm in 2020. This will enable us to add new perennial crops and begin other exciting projects. We will continue building the farm's soils and its capacity to support agriculture long into the future. We intend to integrate even more pollinator-friendly practices, improve the farm's wildlife habitats, and explore the addition of other livestock. We want this farm to be an abundant source of food, a vibrant home for wildlife, and a beautiful, magical place we can all enjoy and connect to throughout each year and into the years ahead.

CSA Members make this possible. 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.

2020 CSA Membership Agreement

We have reviewed the contents of the 2020 CSA Membership Agreement. We agree to fulfill all of the commitments we are making to one another.

CSA Member Signature

Date:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Farm Owner and Manager Signature

Date:

Name: _____

FARM CONTACT INFORMATION

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