

Kittatinny Mountain Farm LLC CSA Share Guide 2021

Welcome to Community Supported Agriculture at Kittatinny Mountain Farm! We hope you will find this CSA Share Guide helpful in explaining the organization of our CSA as well as the day-to-day operations of our farm. Thank you for your interest, membership and participation! We are looking forward to a bountiful season.

About the Farm:

We are a Certified Organic farm growing produce, herbs and flowers on approximately 2 acres of land. The farm business is owned and operated by David Zelov and Danielle Szepi and we lease land for growing from Fair Acres Farm and Garden Center in Wantage. 2021 marks our 11th year in operation and we continue to grow our CSA membership and attend the Sparta Farmers Market on Saturdays and the Milford, PA Farmers Market on Sundays.

What it means to be part of our CSA:

We grow all of the produce for the CSA share on our farm. This is different from a service that simply puts together produce sourced from many different places and then re-sells it to you in a box. Because we grow everything on the farm, by joining our CSA you share in the risks and satisfaction of farming, including poor harvests due to weather or pests and bountiful harvests during favorable growing conditions. There will be years when certain crops produce bumper quantities and other years when the same crops may not produce much at all. Because the produce is coming to you straight from the farm it is picked at peak flavor and freshness and represents the seasonality of each crop. For example, you will not receive cucumbers all 20 weeks of the season because cucumbers simply do not produce in northern New Jersey every week of the season. For more information of the availability and seasonality of crops in our CSA share please see our website. You are making a choice to support local agriculture and by purchasing a CSA share you are directly helping the farmers to pay for the season's startup expenses.

How to use this guide:

This is your handbook for the CSA and we have tried to answer questions that you will likely have as you are thinking of signing up and again once you start picking up your share. Please refer to this throughout the season for your convenience and do not hesitate to ask if you have questions!

Workshare Opportunities:

We do not require CSA members to fulfill any work commitments. However, we do offer several workshare opportunities for those interested in working a regular shift over the season in exchange for a Farm CSA share. The work days are not necessarily the same as the pickup day

and the work requires you to be in reasonably good physical shape and able to commit to working in all weather conditions. Our working members often come back year after year and are a valued part of the farm crew. If you are interested, please see our website for more information.

Weekly Email:

We will send out a weekly email a few days before pick up to let you know what produce you might be able to expect in the share for the week. This email is also our way of communicating any other necessary information for the week.

We have 2 CSA Options: Market CSA and Farm CSA

Option 1: Farm CSA

Location: Pick up your produce on the farm 1339 Route 23, Sussex, NJ 07461.

Time: Wednesdays from 1pm-6pm June 2nd through October 13th

Share sizes: Choose either a full or half share

Cost: Full Share: \$725 Half Share \$400

Distribution method: When you come to pick up your share, you will be able to choose a certain number of items according to what you prefer. Produce is arranged “farmstand” style and the share will be written on a chalkboard detailing what you can choose from. During the height of the growing season we offer certain crops as pick your own-these are an add on bonus to the share. Members who take the time to do all of the picking available will be able to take full advantage of the value of the CSA share.

Option 2: Market CSA

Location: Pick up your produce at either the Sparta Farmers Market or the Milford Farmers Market-You do not have to choose one market to come to-you can come to either at any time.

Times: Sparta Farmers Market runs on Saturdays, 9am-1pm, May 8th through November 20th
Milford Farmers Market runs on Sundays, 10am-2pm, mid May through mid October

Share Sizes: Choose from 4 account sizes and receive a discounted debit account to start the season with.

Cost: Account sizes are \$250, \$400, \$550 and \$700, with the corresponding account sizes receiving a starting balance of \$265, \$432, \$610 and \$784.

We encourage anyone trying the market CSA for the first time to start with a lower account size-

you will be able to top off your account during the season if you find you have used it all up.

Distribution method: Market CSA members are able to choose any amount of produce that they would like from our stand at the farmers market and we simply keep track of the cost and subtract it from their account.

What CSA Option is right for me?

The Farm CSA option offers the greatest value-we harvest what is available and split it equally among Farm CSA members. The pick your own crops are an add on bonus since you pick them yourselves.

The Market CSA option offers the greatest flexibility-you can come anytime you want to the farmers markets and choose whatever produce is available at the stand that day. You will not be limited to certain amounts of any one crop.

Both CSA options benefit the farmers in the same way-by paying ahead of time for your produce you help us to purchase necessary supplies to begin the season.

Additional Details about the Farm CSA

Full Share: Great for a medium to large family or a couple who already cook and eat a fair amount of produce. Depending on how much produce you go through in a week, there may be some left over for those who enjoy preserving food for the winter months.

Half Share: Good for a small family or a couple who want to include fresh produce in their meals but may not be able to go through the share within one week.

The value of the share per week will vary according to the time during the season. For example, in early June the share will often be “lighter” as a large portion of what is available early in the season consists of leafy greens, peas, beets, radishes etc. In late August, the share will be quite “heavy” as we reach peak harvests of items such as tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelons, and pick your own crops etc.

Pick your Own: Some produce, when available, is pick your own, including peas, green beans, cherry tomatoes, flowers and herbs. The majority of pick your own crops are available during the height of the season, mainly in August and September, with the exception of peas, which are generally ready late June.

Whether or not you do your picking is entirely up to you! Those who make the effort to do all of the pick your own will capitalize on the value of the share. Picking does take time and you are encouraged to factor that in when coming to the farm. We will try our best to keep crops ready for picking well marked. If in doubt, please ask us to show you where and how to pick what is available.

We will provide pint and quart containers for pick your own crops. We would love if you could reuse your pint and quart containers from week to week. Unfortunately, we cannot them back once you have taken them home!

If you would like to cut herbs or flowers we usually have clippers to borrow but consider bringing your own.

What to do if you have to miss a pick up if you miss a Farm CSA pickup: We do not give refunds for shares you don't pick up. If you are on vacation, we encourage you to send a friend to pick up your share in your place! For those of you with half shares-we are able to accommodate occasional days when you need to switch your week-**Please let us know ahead of time.** Please keep this to a minimum.

Shares must be picked up on Wednesdays from 1pm-6pm-we cannot hold it for a different day. It is helpful if you can let us know at the latest by Monday evenings if you will not be picking up on any given week.

Open Hours-We are open from 1pm-6pm on Wednesdays. Please plan to be at the farm during that time frame only.

What to expect when you arrive at the farm on Pick Up day:

Please bring bags to haul away your produce.

Please do not bring your dogs to the pick-up area or into the field- our farm has a Food Safety Plan which dictates keeping animals out of produce growing and distribution areas. You are welcome to walk your dog on a leash around the rest of Fair Acres.

Parking: Please use only the main entrance at Fair Acres. It is very important to curb your speed as it can be hard to see other cars or people when entering the lower parking area. 5 to 10mph. You may use either the upper parking area by the barn or the lower parking area by the field.

We will be available for answering questions-we are pretty good at spotting new faces and will be glad to help!

We will occasionally have bulk produce available for sale above and beyond what is included in your share. This is a great opportunity for stocking up or for increasing the size of your share should you decide you want more of certain items.