

Is There Risk in a CSA?

The early spirit of Community Supported Agriculture is that eaters and farmers work together to contribute to a resilient and healthy local food system. This leads to an understanding that CSA members provide support to the farm, while the farm works hard to provide a plentiful, consistent, and varied supply of farm fresh produce. Hilltop Hanover Farm has years of farm stand and UPick experience, and our farmer has years of successful CSA management. Therefore, while this is our first year operating our own HHF CSA, we are confident that we can provide a varied and satisfying array of produce to our membership. This being stated, there is an element of risk in a CSA membership. Due to weather or other events beyond our control, there may be complications with some crops (2010's tomato blight and tomato shortage is one example). We will do our best to provide members with produce, but by buying a membership you are recognizing and committing to support a local farm through some of the challenges that it may face—and for this, we thank you and will be working extra hard to

About Hilltop Hanover Farm

The 180 acre farm was bought in 2003 by Westchester County for watershed protection and agricultural education. In May of 2010 the Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Inc. was formed to assist the county in raising funding and helping with the day to day operations of the facility. The farm features demonstration models for backyard farming, rainwater harvesting, composting, and greenroof technology.

Visitors can hike the farm's 3.5 miles of woodland trails, picnic on the farm grounds, purchase produce from our farm stand or at U-Pick during the growing season, or attend any of our numerous classes and lectures. Hilltop Hanover Farm offers tours and field trips to school groups, garden clubs, and scout troops.

www.HilltopHanoverFarm.org
 hhf.farm@gmail.com
 1271 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
 (914) 962-2368

Please Note

CSA dates are dependent on the weather—we will contact all members to confirm the CSA start date in early May. Depending on the season, we could run an extra week longer in October as well!



Community Supported Agriculture, or CSA, is a subscription-style farming partnership between CSA members and the CSA farmer. Members sign up early in the season for weekly CSA shares. In return for this early commitment, CSA members receive the freshest food possible, build connections to the farm and farmers through weekly visits and special member events, learn about new recipes and unique crops, and find out how delicious locally produced foods taste. Farms, in return, spend less time in the growing season selling crops and more time growing crops, have more money early in the year to buy seeds with, and have an opportunity to learn more about their members (and grow the food members want!).



Hilltop Hanover Farm CSA Season, Location, Day, Time & Pricing

20wk Season	Pick-up Location	Day	Time	Price
June - Mid-Oct	Hilltop Hanover	Tuesday *	2pm-7pm *	\$630

* Limited room in walk-in cooler to hold a few shares until Wednesday AM

Share Size

Hilltop Hanover Farm CSA offers one share size for the 2012 season. While we cannot split a share for you, we will provide a table space for members to divide split shares. If you want to split a share with someone, please feel free to use our Facebook page as a site to find a share-sharing-buddy.

What is in CSA Share?



Your weekly share will consist of 8 to 12 items each week, including freshly harvested seasonal vegetables and fresh herbs—chosen by the farmers to ensure a good mix of what crops are in season. One share provides enough vegetables for a family of four for a week, or for one or two adults who eat lots of vegetables.

HHF CSA distribution is “Farmstand style.” We provide two reusable canvas bags to all CSA members. At CSA distribution, members will fill their bags with the produce they pick out. Most of the time, members will choose an assigned amount of a particular crop (i.e. “take 8 to 10 carrots,” or “2 heads of lettuce”), but will have a choice between varieties of that crop (i.e. purple vs. orange carrots, or red vs. green lettuce). Other times, members will have a choice between a range of crops (i.e. “choose 1 bunch of leafy greens: either chard OR kale OR broccoli raab,” or “choose 6 beets OR 6 turnips”). This “Farmstand style” selection process allows CSA members to have a bit more choice of produce, while at the same time allowing the farmer to plan for a steady supply of crops.

A typical share planned for early July may include items such as a bunch of carrots, a bunch of leeks, fennel bulbs, your choice of leafy greens, cucumbers, summer squash, tomatoes, basil, and other seasonal herbs. A late September share may

include items such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli raab, eggplants, peppers, onions, radishes, and beets. Shares will include a mix of popular staple crops (lettuce, carrots, onions, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers, peppers, and herbs), as well as including more unique and delicious crops (along with recipes!). CSA shares do reflect the seasonal availability of crops, so early in the season, shares will include more greens, while later in the season, shares become heavier (literally!) with the summer and fall bounty. One note on crops—due to the smaller scale of our operation, we can’t afford the equipment to grow potatoes or sweet corn, so these labor intensive crops will not be part of the shares, but will be available from local farms for cash sale at the distribution.



Are you Organic?

We are not certified organic, but we do not use synthetic chemicals in our farming, and we do use management methods that protect and build the soil, provide a safe environment for our workers, and have little impact on the surrounding ecology. We are dedicated to providing outstanding flavor, health, and nutrition through our farming. For more information about our growing practices and for pictures of the farm, visit hilltophanoverfarm.org.

CSA Cost & Payment Plan 2012 CSA share cost is \$630, which covers 20 weeks of CSA vegetables, a weekly CSA newsletter, first option to sign up for 2013 CSA shares, access to CSA member open farm days. A part of the concept of CSA membership is to support the farm financially at the beginning of the farming season (when the farm incurs most of the year’s expenses), full membership payment with your registration really helps the farm! However, we understand that budgeting a full summer’s produce costs into one payment can be a challenge, and we do offer a payment plan. A \$100 deposit is due to reserve a CSA membership for your family, with the balance is due by February, 29. Shares not paid in full by March 1, will be made available to members on our waiting list, and your balance will be returned less a \$20 administrative fee. If these payment plans provide an obstacle to your participation in the CSA, please contact us for further arrangements.

More Details & Benefits

- ★ CSA members will receive a weekly newsletter that includes information on the share, farm news, and recipes emailed out Tuesday morning. (If you don’t have email, we will have a paper copy for you at the distribution!)
- ★ CSA members have no obligation to work on the farm, but we do offer workdays each season where it’s great to get many hands together to accomplish a big harvest or other task on the farm.
- ★ We will host special events for CSA members and these will be organized by our CSA Coordinators.
- ★ If a member is on vacation, you may either have a friend pick up your share, or else send your share as a donation to a local food pantry.
- ★ All produce left over from the CSA distribution will go to area food pantries.

CSA Application

Complete form and mail to address below. By completing this form you are acknowledging that CSA shareholders share in the seasonality and risks of the growing season; that the Farm strives to provide a diverse and generous supply of produce for 20 weeks; and you understand and accept the inherent risks of farming which impact crop yields.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Cell: _____

Please check one option below:

- I have included a check for \$630 in full payment for a 2012 CSA share.
- I have attached a check for \$100 being the deposit required to reserve a CSA share. I will pay the balance of \$530 by February 28, 2012.

Please make checks payable to the Friends of Hilltop Hanover Farm and mail to PO Box 54, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.

