

2012

# CSA INFORMATION



FRESH, LOCAL FOOD

ALL NATURAL PRACTICES

SUSTAINABLE DELICIOUS

Interested in joining our community of fresh seasonal produce delivered weekly? Read on to answer your questions.

SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD  
JOIN A CSA!

## OUR CSA



### Length

#### Late June - Late September

We start harvesting when nature allows - typically late June and up through first frost in late September. Those are guidelines and nature really determines when! (about 15 weeks + pumpkins)

### Size

#### A big box - abundant harvest

Unlike other CSA's we offer a single sized share - a box that's approximately 1/2 bushel. We fill it as high as we can based on what's in season and how well the crops have been treated by the weather.

### Content



#### Amazing flavors

Not only do we try to provide lots of great tasting options in the weekly harvest but we also include varieties of heirlooms listed in the Slow Food Ark of Taste.

### Location

#### 2 choices to get your greens

We are offering 2 options this year: drop offs at the Penfield Community Center on Tuesday nights and on farm pickups on Thursday evening.

### Recipes

**Fresh and weekly!**

## WANT TO KNOW ABOUT OUR CSA?

**H**ere are some of the highlights of our CSA. Please take the time to read through them as all CSA's are a little different.

Like all CSA's, there is a potential for risk, as well as reward. By joining our CSA, you are aware that the weather, crop failure and hungry animals may impact the harvest. You also realize that moderate temperatures, gentle rains and well tended soils may result in a bounty to be shared. In a CSA, nature dictates the terms, not the farmer.

Ours is a subscription CSA. That

means you CAN work but don't HAVE to work.

A CSA is NOT the grocery store. Once you select one of the pickup times/locations offered that's when your box of veggies will be ready. If you do not pick up your share, it will be donated to other CSA members or individuals in need. This type of fresh produce does not store.

If you can't make a pickup or can't send someone else, please let us know at least one day before. We will determine if there is an alternative way for you to claim that week's share, but realize that may not be possible.

## COMMUNITY COMMITMENT - LOCAL FOOD



**CHICKEN THISTLE FARM**

### Payment Information

To reserve your share, please complete this contract and return it with a \$100 deposit made payable to "Chicken Thistle Farm". Mail to Chicken Thistle Farm, 2039 Barnes Road, Walworth NY 14568. Balance will be due on March 15, 2012.



### Personal / Family Information

Please complete this section with the information regarding your commitment to partner with a local farmer and enjoy fresh local food throughout the 2012 growing season.

Your Name + Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**SAMPLE CONTRACT DO NOT COMPLETE**

### Select your location and circle

SAMPLE	PENFIELD	FARM
Tues Night	Tues - 7pm	Thur - 4:30-7:30pm
\$250	\$275	\$250

The above names commit to membership in the CHICKEN THISTLE FARM CSA for the 2012 harvest season with the deposit included herein. In addition, I commit to pick up my weekly delivery as selected above. I understand that if I do not pick up my share, it will be forfeited. If not picked up in a timely manner I do not expect to have my share saved. I understand that I am under no obligation to participate in farming activities but am welcome to do so should I want to. As a member of the CHICKEN THISTLE FARM CSA, I will receive a weekly share consisting of an average of 1/2 bushel of seasonal produce. I understand that the variety of produce I receive depends on growing conditions that vary from season to season and that the risks and benefits of the harvest are shared. By participating in this CSA, I am supporting a local grower, taking responsibility for the origins of my food and growing a healthier society.

Sign & Date: \_\_\_\_\_ - **SAMPLE** -

CHICKEN THISTLE FARM

# CSA Contract

Listed below are the fundamentals of the 2012 Chicken Thistle Farm CSA Contract.



## Locations & Times

### Two convenient locations

Once you select an option for the season you understand we may not be able to change it.

**Tuesday Night - 7PM**

**Penfield Community Center**

**Thursday - 4:30-7:30pm**

**On-Farm Pickup**



## Price

### Two Prices

Be more connected to your food on the farm and save!

### \$275 - Drop Off Location

Every week during the season you pick up your box of fresh veggies at the drop off location at 7pm.

### \$250 - On Farm Pickup

Visit the farm every week to pick up your produce and see how things are growing!



## Size and Duration

### 1/2 bushel

We use boxes that are about 1/2 a bushel and fill them as full as we can based on the season and it's bounty.

### Late June - Late September

That's the target start and end but we can't fight Mother Nature. Sometimes she may want the harvest to start or end on a different time table.

For further details and more information visit our website:  
[chickenthistlefarm.com](http://chickenthistlefarm.com)

2010 Harvest  
2011 shares all at -

[www.chickenthistlefarm.com/blog/category/csa](http://www.chickenthistlefarm.com/blog/category/csa)



# The CSA, the Farmer and The Customer

A short story about the CSA experience

**G**eorge signed up for a CSA because he wanted to eat local but didn't do much research. He just thought a CSA was like a grocery store. George didn't think about the commitment he was making to the farmer, he just knew he was sending the farmer a check. He also didn't think about the commitment the farmer was making to provide the best local food he could to George and his family.

**Meet Susie** another person who signed up for a CSA. Susie researched "what it means" to be in a CSA and realized that it was a real relationship between her and the farmer. She knew that the days and times she committed

to picking up her food was just that, her commitment.

**The experience** that George and Susie had in the CSA that year were very different. George was late on the days he "remembered" and often didn't show, leaving the farmer alone in the parking lot. George would sometimes even call days later and ask if he could still get his "fresh veggies for the week" making for an awkward conversation for the farmer.

Susie, on the other hand, showed up on time and excited every single week. When she was out of town she sent her neighbors to pick up her share (and they enjoyed the harvest that week).



The farmer packs each box for each customer on their pickup days.



"The best customers are those who understand what they are getting into and are committed with the same level of dedication we have to raising their food."

The Famers  
Chicken Thistle Farm

## RECIPE FOR CSA SUCCESS

### CSA Success

#### Dedicated Customer

Understating that the farmer can't accommodate shifting schedules

Excited willingness to try new and different veggies

Mix the Dedicated Customer with the Understanding and Excited Willingness in equal parts. Add dedicated farmer as desired from your local market. Mix well and look at the consistency of the agreement. If it looks like something you



understand and agree to - sign up and become a part of controlling your own food - locally!