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2024 Windsong Farm, LLC, CSA Membership Agreement

Community Supported Agriculture is based upon a mutual commitment between farmer and consumer to share the risks and rewards involved in producing and consuming fresh, healthy food from a known local source. By becoming a member of the Windsong Farm, LLC CSA program, you are helping support a business that emphasizes sustainable agriculture, environmental stewardship, and excellent food and nutrition.

The farmer, Diane Skoss, agrees to:

- Work hard to produce fresh, diverse, high-quality food for your household for the duration of the season, as agreed upon.
- Manage the entire farm's landscape according to sustainable ecological principles.
- Manage the farm to mitigate risk of crop failure to the best of her knowledge and ability.
- Manage the business honestly and ethically, in accord with applicable rules and laws to the best of her knowledge and understanding.
- Involve members in the farm's work and life through events, workshops, and communications.
- Take reasonable measures to mitigate safety hazards on the farm.
- Treat all members fairly and equally, and respond honestly to any concerns or questions.

CSA members agree to:

- Understand that membership supports the farm's long-term economic stability and thus there are no refunds.
- Understand that farming is fundamentally risky, that weather/pest conditions cannot be fully controlled, and thus specific crops and number of distributions cannot be guaranteed in any given season or year.
- Pay the agreed membership cost, on time according to the agreed payment plan.

- Respond to the e-mailed survey promptly.
- Request only the amount of produce that you can use within your household (either for fresh use or food preservation) without redistributing or reselling produce to others.
- Pick up your share from the farm at your assigned delivery time and day.
- Return reusable delivery containers regularly (or pay a fee for items not returned at the end of the year).
- Handle farm products safely and responsibly in the home, including washing produce.
- Accept that final decisions on delivery day and location are up to the farmer's best judgment.
- Accept that visiting a working farm entails risks. I (and my family, heirs, and personal representatives) willingly and knowingly release Windsong Farm, LLC and its owners from any and all liability for any personal injury or damage relating to farm visits, events, and work/volunteer opportunities.

We sometimes take photographs during on-farm events for promotional use. Please indicate whether members of your household ___ ARE or ___ ARE NOT okay with appearing in such images.

MEMBER NAME (s): _____

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read the information in the Windsong Farm CSA Membership Program description, attached, and that you agree to the terms above:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please circle desired membership:

Double weekly (\$1700)	Standard weekly (\$900)
Double EOW (\$900)	Standard EOW (\$500)

Sustaining (+\$250)

Please indicate *first* choice of pickup days:

___ Tuesday (11 a.m.-9 p.m.) ___ Friday (11 a.m.-9 p.m.)

2024 Windsong Farm, LLC, CSA Membership Program

The Windsong Farm Community Supported Agriculture program features weekly shares of fresh certified organic produce grown on our diversified sustainable farm. Shares consist predominantly of vegetables but also may include herbs and limited amounts of fruit (see our online produce page for full list). Members are, in effect, hiring our services as professional farmers to produce a wide variety of fresh, exceptionally nutritious, tasty, local food for regular pickup. Membership includes access to on-farm events.

MEMBERSHIP SEASON

Our growing season is from the middle of April through the middle of October. Members should expect to receive weekly shares of fresh produce during this time. Only under extraordinary circumstances should there be fewer than 26 weekly shares. We plan for resilience in crop production; it's always the case that one or more crops won't do so well, but others will shine. This annual variation is part of the fun!

SHARE CUSTOMIZATION

We use an online system that allows members to make requests to customize their share contents and let us know about what time they plan to pick it up. Two days before each share distribution, we send out a survey via e-mail listing the expected share contents. We ask that you return the survey before 8 a.m. the following day (the day before your pickup day). Members may opt out of given items or request extras, which will be provided if available (sometimes items that other members did not want, or overabundance, or seconds-quality items). While we believe a CSA should encourage members to try unusual produce, some folks simply don't like certain vegetables; if these won't be used or appreciated in one household, we'd rather be able to free those items up for a household that really likes them. Similarly, we want to share the bounty when it is available, but we don't want to overwhelm a member's kitchen with lots of extra produce unless they are prepared to use it. Those who request a lot will get the best overall deal, but others may prefer to take lesser amounts when desired and trade efficient service for monetary value. This survey is integral to our harvest and share-packing methods, and members should plan to take a few moments each week to fill out the survey.

Members are welcome to request as much produce as they think members of their household can eat, either for fresh consumption or to preserve for later use by the

household. Members must agree not to share produce beyond their own household, in order to preserve the integrity and fairness of the system for everyone. Our goal is to maximize the value of our produce to the paying members, not to members' neighbors or friends. For the same reason, if members will be traveling and unable to use the share contents while they are still fresh, we ask that they forgo their share for that week (unless your cat sitter loves veggies and will pick them up for you). We will redistribute those share contents to other members using the survey system, and those travelers can expect to benefit from such redistributions themselves at other times—something that the surveys allow us to do effectively by knowing who wants more of what.

There are times, especially at the beginning and end of the season, when predicting the quantity of a particular item becomes extremely difficult. When I can't come up with a standard share size, I will distribute a "quantity based on availability" or qba, which just means that you'll get an equal share of what is currently available of that item.

PICKUP DAYS & TIMES

Each member will choose an available weekly pickup day. Our 2024 pickup days are Tuesdays or Fridays, and shares will be available in a cooler on our front porch between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. Occasional requests to switch to an alternate day within a week can usually be accommodated, if made sufficiently in advance. Because I need to spread harvests evenly throughout the week, there is a maximum number of members I can handle on each of these days. I will give you your first choice of pickup days if I possibly can, but it may be necessary to do some load balancing. Sign up early to lock in your preferred day.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

All members receive access to on-farm events, share customization for produce and herbs (see below), and our online newsletter/forum (still under construction). Our goal is to offer a standard share that fills at least 3/4 of a cloth shopping bag, featuring an average of 7 types of produce. Early spring shares tend to be less diverse and smaller; summer shares tend to be more diverse and heftier and may include a second bag.

There are two share size options, and two pick-up frequency options, plus our special Sustaining membership.

Standard (size): This share size includes early spring greens (spinach, lettuce, kale, chard) and late season storage crops (winter squash, beets, carrots), as well as our main season staples (tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, peppers, green beans, eggplants). See the [produce list](#) or "[What's in a Share](#)" for full details.

Double (size): This is a double-sized share. Each pickup members will receive two Standard size shares. This share is particularly suited to larger families and those who cook a lot. A Double share is less expensive than two Standard shares.

Weekly (frequency): Shares are picked up once per week.

EOW (frequency): Shares are picked up Every Other Week. Please note that the price is more than half a weekly membership, due to administrative costs.

Sustaining (special membership): Sustaining members are interested in more than just an exchange of cash for local produce. They want to contribute tangibly to our efforts to regenerate and restore the earth (see our growing practices page for more on how we do this). When crops first start ripening, Sustaining members will receive the first distributions of those crops. Requests for larger amounts of individual items will always take priority. Sustaining members pay an additional \$250 per membership.

PRICES

- Standard share: \$900 (Weekly); \$500 (EOW)
- Double share: \$1700 (Weekly); \$900 (EOW)
- Sustaining membership: add \$250 to any share type

A farm like this takes year-round work to maintain, so members are paying ~\$18/week throughout the year to have us farm for you, from which the farm must first pay all farm expenses and health insurance before any income is left to pay for our own time.

We know our prices seem high in comparison with other food options in this country (although this is starting to change!), and we know that our prices already strain some members' budgets. But we also know that earning a reasonable living through farming is really hard. Also consider that vegetable farms like ours aren't eligible for the sorts of government support programs larger commodity farms take advantage of, so our more free-market price looks artificially expensive compared to conventional subsidized agriculture.

Most importantly, because of our soil management techniques, and the freshness of the produce, you are getting maximum nutrition for your food dollars.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Farm planning and expenditures begin well before the growing season. The best prices on seed and supplies are often in December. We aim to complete all seed purchases by the end of January, thus we've developed the following standardized payment schedule:

	Deposit, due at sign up	Payment 1, due January 15	Payment 2, due March 1
Standard Weekly/EOW	\$100	\$400/\$200	\$400/\$200
Double/Double EOW	\$100	\$800/\$400	\$800/\$400
Sustaining		+\$125	+\$125

We are also quite happy to take a one-time payment either now or in the middle of January, as this is less accounting work for us. A custom payment plan is a possibility if the above options do not provide sufficient flexibility; contact us with a specific proposal if needed.

We accept cash or checks made out to Windsong Farm, LLC.

NEXT STEPS

To join for 2024, we ask that all returning members:

- Read this agreement. Print, sign, and date the separate Member Agreement (pages 1 & 2).
- Enclose with check made out to Windsong Farm for your next installment and mail to us at: 31 King George Rd., Warren, NJ 07059.