Spear Spring Farm

“ Your Choice” CSA Program

2023

Thank you for considering our CSA program as a way to put healthy, locally grown food onto your table!

Here at SSF, we take food (and health) seriously, which is why we are committed to growing all our food with approved organic methods and practices that help to nurture and enrich our soils, keep our water clean and plentiful, and enable us to live in harmony with our wild neighbors.

While we farm using organic practices, we are not “certified organic” at this time and may choose not to pursue certification, depending on what our customers want... So feel free to ask us about this, tour our farm, see our growing practices and get to know us. We also support many other local farms by buying their products and selling them in our farm store. These products are all available under the CSA program and while we choose only quality products that we use ourselves for our store, we cannot guarantee products from other farms are “certified organic” or “grass-fed”, etc.

**2023 CSA Share Details:**

**Share Size:**

1) Full Share – Weekly automatic charge of $30.00

Less than the cost of lunch for 2 at a local café! Your weekly payment gets you a 15% discount towards ALL products, including: veggies, herbs, value-added products, fresh free-range eggs and more... All produced right here on the farm. In addition, we have stocked the store with other great things, made and grown by other farms and food producers we love - like pastured beef, lamb, pork and chicken, local beer and wine, local artisan cheeses, goat’s milk soaps and bath products, value-added products, handmade gifts, pottery and much more...

2) Half Share – Weekly automatic charge of $20.00

For less than your weekly coffee and pastry habit, you can have beautiful farm fresh veggies, eggs, dried herbs and other value-added goodies to enjoy all season long! Your weekly payment gets you a 10% discount off anything in our store, including those grown and made by other farms and food producers we love - like pastured beef, lamb, pork and chicken, local beer and wine, local cheeses, goat’s milk soaps and bath products, value-added products, handmade gifts, pottery, and much more...

**Length Options: Everyone Loves Options!**

Option A: 27 weeks – Whole Season Share from May 13th – Nov. 12th

Option B: 18 weeks – Height of Season Share from June 15th – Oct. 15th

Option C1: 10 weeks – Early Season Share from May 13th – July 16th

Option C2: 10 weeks – Late Season Share from Sept. 8th – Nov. 12th

**The Fine Print:**

**NEW - Paying Up Front Gets You a DISCOUNT:**

Now, because it represents significantly less work for me, I am offering a discount on the CSA if you pay in full at the beginning of the season!  This is NEW! However, if you choose to do that and you spend more than the share allotment each week (which is totally fine, btw) you may run out of credit before the end of your selected share period. This would require you to reload your share card in order to continue receiving the discount through the remainder of your share period.

**A Full Share, Whole Season subscription paid up front will be reduced from $810 down to $750 - a $60 savings.**

**A Half Share for the Whole Season, paid up front will be reduced from $540 down to $500 - a $40 savings.**

**A Full Share for the Height of Season, paid up front will be reduced from $540 down to $500 - a $40 savings.**

**A Half Share for the Height of Season will be reduced from $360 down to $340 - a $20 savings.**

We have never offered discounts for paying in full up front before because we felt that the payment plan was so important to reduce barriers to accessing local food.  But the truth is, paying up front results in a lot of time savings on my part, freeing me up to do other essential things.  I am incentivizing this potential efficiency for our farm by offering an additional discount.

**NEW - Limited Home Delivery!**

New in 2023, we will now be offering home delivery for anyone located within a 5 minute radius from our primary delivery routes.  This is a BETA program to help us determine if home delivery enables more people to benefit from our CSA.  Our hope is that lots more people will join our CSA, enabling us to expand this option further afield next season.

**Limited delivery to the following routes will be available for an extra $10/week fee.**  This fee covers the cost of packing up your order - including additional packaging, extra labor hours for driving your order to your door, and gas.

Route A:  Rt. 131 South - South Thomaston, St. George, Tenant's Harbor,

 Port Clyde

Route B:  Thomaston/Rockland, Rt. 1

Route C:  Camden/Rockport, Rt. 1 and Rt. 90

Deliveries are made every Thursday/Friday during the regular CSA season depending on the route.  Deliveries will be made throughout the day and your order will be left in a designated location.  If you will not be home to receive your delivery, we require that a cooler be left out for us to place your order in to keep it fresh and cold during the hot summer months.  This is a beta test for this service and if delivery becomes too cumbersome or there are complaints about product quality due to being left outside, we reserve the right to discontinue this service at any time.

**NEW - REFERRAL BONUS:**

If you refer someone to our CSA and they sign up for a Height of Season or Whole Season Share, you will receive 1 FREE TICKET to an on-farm class or farm to table event!  It's that simple.  Just make sure that your friend mentions your name!

**How it works:**

There is NO LIMIT to how much you can buy with your CSA discount! However, the $30.00 weekly payment is the minimum charge each week for this share size. If you want to purchase more than you have on your share card you will still receive your discount on EVERYTHING you buy, but you MUST pay for any overage at the time of sale.

You cannot “pre-buy” with credits that haven’t accrued yet. We have to do it this way because of the bookkeeping end of things. We accept cash, debit and credit cards, including American Express.

**Unfortunately, we do NOT accept personal checks.**

**If you don’t get to use your credit one week, it carries over! You can roll over credits if you go on vacation, if you are unable to get into the store one week, or if you don’t spend all your credits each week. However...**

IMPORTANT: You MUST use all your credit by December 31st! We only do this because we have to close out our books each year and carrying over credits is a bookkeeping nightmare. So we will send out reminders, but PLEASE DON’T LET YOUR CREDITS BUILD UP TILL DECEMBER! Our goal is to put good healthy food on your table, so use your share credits, enjoy all the flavors of the season and give us friendly feedback on what you love and what you don’t...

If you do find that you have credits that you simply can’t spend down by the end of the year (and we hope you don’t, honestly!) you can opt to donate your remaining credits. SSF has donated over 18,000 pounds of food from 2020 -2023 to our community and organizations working hard to put healthy local food onto more tables. Many of those donations were, in part, supported by our customers, who opted to donate their unused balances.

**CURBSIDE PICKUP:** If you can make it into the store once or twice to get the layout and understand what we carry, it makes curbside ordering easier! We take curbside orders each week (due by Wednesdays at Noon) for pickup Thursday – Sunday in season during regular store hours. Curbside ordering is a slightly imperfect system in that you must communicate with me via email or text or phone (email and text preferred!) to place your order and arrange a pick up time.

**STORE HOURS & OPTIONS:**

The farm store is open Thursday – Saturday from 9am-6pm and Sunday from 9am to 3pm.

Our CSA runs May 15th (God willing) through November 15th. We sell storage crops like carrots, beets, turnips, potatoes, garlic, winter squash and more through Dec. 21st by order only. You can use your CSA credits right up until Dec. 21st!

**PLEASE UNDERSTAND:** We grow food, which means we rely on the variable and unpredictable Mother Nature to help us do so... In May, when the farm store first opens, fresh veggies will be limited to what we can grow in our greenhouse and high tunnels. Please don’t get upset when there are no tomatoes in May, no baby greens in August or no sweet corn in October. Everything has its season and this is one of the great joys of learning to eat locally... Everything tastes better in its own good time!

**OUR CROP SELECTION and INVENTORY:** There may be certain things you might expect to see in a typical CSA share that we do not grow here at Spear Spring Farm. There is always a reason for these choices – it maybe that one of our neighboring farms specializes in that crop and we would rather buy in from them or focus on something else; it may that the crop simply wouldn’t grow well in the soil or growing conditions on our farm; or it may be a lifestyle choice for us, given all the things we are trying to accomplish. We want to do some things really well, not all things in a mediocre way. That said, we are ALWAYS happy to hear customer requests and suggestions and will take your requests under serious consideration. If you know of someone who grows or makes something that we might want to carry in our store, don’t hesitate to give us their name and info.

**WEEKLY PAYMENT PLAN:** Our goal is to make purchasing a CSA share as convenient as possible. By organizing our CSA program around regular weekly payments instead of a large up front payment; you can easily budget for your CSA share as you would normally for your groceries. We want to help you buy locally grown, fresh produce and other great Maine products in season, replacing the $ you would normally spend on buying the same products from Wal-Mart, Hannaford or Shaws.

We will charge you for one week ($30.00 or $20.00) at sign up to confirm your enrollment in the program. This is your “deposit” and actually pays for your last week in the program - we will not charge you for the last week of your chosen share.

So, for example, you will start the first week of the program (hopefully May 15th) with a $30.00 charge and a $30 credit for a FULL SHARE (this is the money you PAID) and you will also receive a 15% discount at the time of checkout on EVERYTHING you buy. We will confirm with all CSA members before making the first weekly charge of the season in May and CSA members who elect the payment plan MUST place their CC# on file in order to hold their slot. Credit card numbers are all stored through Square’s secure server and YOU have all the control over inputting your CC info. We NEVER see your credit card information!

**Again: All CSA members who sign up will be charged an immediate charge of the $30.00 (or $20.00 for a half share) that is the deposit, unless they choose to pay in full for the season up front, which is required to hold your spot for the season!**

**WHY WE LOVE WHAT WE DO:** It is a great honor to grow food for our family, friends, neighbors and community. It is the simplest of gestures – to break bread with friends, to nurture and to nourish – to bring loved ones together around our handmade farmhouse table. And we love to eat! From learning to cook old favorites in new ways, to collaborating with other local food producers to create something amazing, to finding out that we really do love our vegetables when they are fresh and full of the good stuff... Sharing the amazing bounty of Maine never gets old. When someone comes back to tell us that they made the best pickles, or they used to hate tomatoes until they tried ours, or their kids never ate carrots until they discovered purple ones with stars in the middle... This is why we love what we do.

Thank you for letting us feed you!

Jamien, Jeremy, Rori, Finn, Mayla May & Annabelle

Danny & Grace

From all of us at Spear Spring Farm!