Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

CSA is a collaboration between the local community and the farmer. The community members support the farm directly for an entire season and in return receive a share in the weekly harvest. This partnership increases community involvement in food production and in the health of the local economy and environment.

CSA at the UCSC Farm & Garden

For more than 40 years, people from around the world have come to the UCSC Farm & Garden each spring to take part in the six-month Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture, offered through the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS). Under the direction of the CASFS training staff, apprentices manage the 25-acre Farm and 3-acre Alan Chadwick Garden, learning to grow and care for a variety of vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers using organic methods. The Apprenticeship program of study covers topics such as soils and soil fertility management, plant propagation, composting, hand-scale and tractor tillage, irrigation, pest management and crop culture, as well as food systems and agroecological farm systems. The apprentices also study direct marketing techniques, and are integrally involved in the CSA program.

In 1995, apprentices and staff initiated a CSA pilot project with 20 shareholders. Now in its seventeenth season, the CSA program capacity has grown to 130 memberships, serving the campus and local community. Ten percent of our shares are reserved for low-income households and we donate thousands of pounds of produce each year to organizations serving the homeless, senior citizens, and other populations in need.

Our Vision is to –

❖ establish a partnership between the local community and apprenticing organic growers
❖ demonstrate a viable model of sound economics for small-scale farming and regional food systems
❖ foster ecological stewardship of the land
❖ provide the community with high quality, nutritious produce in season

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The CSA Season: What to Expect

Our planned start date is June 5th, with the season extending through October 30th, weather permitting.

How much produce will I get?
A share of produce contains a diverse supply of freshly harvested organic fruits and vegetables (roughly 9-13 items). A share is designed to feed a household of two or three per week, or a larger family that doesn’t cook every day but still wants fresh, organic and local produce. Check out page 4 for our list of fruits and vegetables.

Members also receive a weekly CSA newsletter with recipes and farm updates and a complimentary membership to the Friends of the Farm & Garden (FF&G) for the duration of the CSA season. FF&G membership benefits include a 10% discount on plants and merchandise at our biannual plant sales and discounts to FF&G-sponsored workshops.

How does pick up work?
You will have the choice to pick up either Tuesdays or Fridays. Boxes are available for pick up on these days from noon until 6:30 p.m. at the Farm, and between 2:30-6:00 p.m. at the corner of Bay and High streets at our Market Cart. Members bring their own bags to pick up their shares. As the first harvest approaches, you will receive notice of the first pick-up date, along with a map and directions to Farm pick-up site parking. Parking permits are required, and will be mailed with the notification of your CSA membership.

What does a share cost?
Full season share cost is $560 (planned 22 weeks); late season share cost is $280 (last half of season – August 21-October 30). For payment plan, see page 5. Please note that no refunds are available.

Is there a low-income option?
Ten percent of our shares are reserved each year for low-income households at the price of $280 per share. We also accept SNAP benefits (formerly Food Stamps) for CSA payment.
To apply, contact farmcsa@ucsc.edu to have an application mailed to you.
To help support low-income shares, please see information on page 6.

Pick-up Days
To ensure you receive the freshest high quality produce, apprentices harvest for the CSA on the morning of your designated pick-up day (either Tuesday or Friday). In order to make the harvests run smoothly, we ask that you choose a designated pick-up day for the duration of the CSA season. However, we can temporarily switch your pick-up day if you let us know in advance. You can reach us by phone at 459-3240 or email: farmcsa@ucsc.edu. Please note that shares that are not picked up by 6:30 pm sharp will be donated to local organizations.

Volunteer Opportunities
We welcome volunteers to join the harvest on Tuesday or Friday mornings, either harvesting the rows or packing boxes. We also are forming a “glean team” to periodically harvest remainder crops for local food banks. Please call 459-4661 or email farmcsa@ucsc.edu if you would like to get involved.

CASFS The CENTER for AGROECOLOGY & SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The UCSC Farm’s CSA program is part of the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS), a research, education, and public service program dedicated to increasing ecological sustainability and social justice in the food and agriculture system.

The CASFS mission is to research, develop, and advance sustainable food and agricultural systems that are environmentally sound, economically viable, socially responsible, non-exploitative, and that serve as a foundation for future generations. Center staff conduct research on both agronomic and social aspects of sustainable agriculture, as well as offer an extensive public education program, including tours of the UCSC Farm and a series of public workshops on gardening techniques and other topics (see page 7).

How to Contact Us
Mailing Address: CASFS / UCSC Farm
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Attn: CSA

Phone Number: 831.459-3240 or 831.459-4661
Email: farmcsa@ucsc.edu Web page: http://casfs.ucsc.edu/community-outreach/produce-sales/community-supported-agriculture

Location: UCSC Farm and Garden
Detailed instructions on parking will be sent with membership confirmation.
Produce Availability Guide

CSA is a unique opportunity to experience local, seasonal eating and deepen your connections between food, land and community.

We strive to make boxes diverse and bountiful throughout the season. Weekly newsletters will keep you in touch with the field and growing conditions as the summer goes on.

Pick-Your-Own Herb & Flower Garden

CSA members are invited to cut flowers and herbs from the garden at the Farm pick-up site.

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Early Summer

- arugula
- beets
- blueberries
- bok choy
- broccoli
- broccolini
- carrots
- cilantro
- kohlrabi
- lettuce
- salad mix
- scallions
- spinach
- strawberries
- Swiss chard
- turnips

Mid Summer

- basil
- beets
- blueberries
- broccoli
- cabbage
- carrots
- Cippolini onions
- cucumbers
- dill
- green beans
- kale
- lettuce
- new potatoes
- plums
- salad mix
- strawberries
- summer squash
- sweet corn
- Swiss chard

Late Summer / Early Fall

- apples
- basil
- beets
- broccoli
- carrots
- cauliflower
- collards
- dry-farmed tomatoes
- heirloom tomatoes
- kale
- lettuce
- onions
- parsley
- parsnips
- potatoes
- pumpkins
- radicchio
- salad mix
- storage onions
- sweet corn
- sweet peppers
- Swiss chard
- winter squash
- zucchini

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2012 CSA Shares Pledge Form

In becoming a member of the UCSC Farm CSA, I understand the following:

- I am making a financial commitment for the 2012 farm season. As the designated primary shareholder, I understand that my share payment is non-refundable.
- I recognize that due to the inherent risks of farming, there are no guarantees on the exact amount of produce that I will receive.
- That my share comes from an educational farm and that apprenticing farmers are producing my food.
- I understand and accept this commitment and assume responsibility to contact the staff if there are any questions or concerns.

Please note that in order to complete your reservation for the 2012 CSA Program, you must submit payment with a signed pledge form to the address listed below.

Signature ______________________ Date __________________

Primary Shareholder ____________________________ Co-Shareholder ____________________________

Primary Address ____________________________________________ Zip __________

Cell # ____________________________ Home or Work # ____________________________

Primary Email ____________________________ Co-share Email ____________________________

Payment options

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<th>FULL SEASON:</th>
<th>LATE SEASON:</th>
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<tr>
<td>payment in full:</td>
<td>$140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two checks: today’s date and post-dated June 1</td>
<td>$140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two checks: today’s date and post-dated Sep 1</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four checks: today’s date and post-dated July 1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four checks: today’s date and post-dated Aug 1</td>
<td>$140</td>
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Payment by Check only payable to “UC Regents”

Send with this pledge form to:
CASFS / UCSC Farm
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Attn: CSA

Pick-up site

- At the Farm (noon-6:30 pm)
- Bay & High (Friday only 2:30-6:00 pm)
- Tuesdays
- Fridays

Office Use Only: Payment enclosed Date received: ___________
Check payment amount: ___________
Make a donation to support low-income shares!

We gratefully accept donations to support low-income shares. Donations are tax deductible.

If you would like to donate, please include with your pledge form and payment, indicating the amount below:

- $25
- $50
- $100
- $280 (a full, low-income share)

I would like to donate $_______ to a low-income share.

Pick-Your-Own Herbs & Flowers

To complement your share, you are welcome to pick herbs and flowers throughout the season in the CSA garden adjacent to the CSA Barn on the Farm.

The Exchange Basket

On pick-up days, take advantage of our exchange basket and frequent offerings of farm bounty.

Comments from our CSA Members:

We love the farm experience and having fresh fruit and veggies every week, we hope to continue to be a part of this every year. Thank you!

I appreciated the 1/2 season share – and the two-part payment option, as it’s difficult to put all the money at once. I look forward to my winter box. Thank you!

It has been fun to bring my toddler to the farm each week to gather our vegetables. This was our first CSA experience and it has been fun to get veggies we wouldn’t have usually purchased on our own. I now love to eat roasted beets. They are sooo good.

Best experience I have had in a long time. My 11-year-old daughter benefited from the experience and knowing that these food items were produced from a local farm. It was the highlight of our week and we enjoyed the freshness of the produce. Kamila said, ‘It feels good to know the money was going to a good cause – helping people learn how to grow good food.’ THANK YOU!

2012 Calendar of Events

CSA membership includes complimentary membership of the Friends of the Farm & Garden (FF&G) during the CSA season and are eligible for discounts on workshop fees (typically $30 general public; $20 FF&G members). Please note that event dates may change. A current calendar is posted at http://casfs.ucsc.edu/community/calendar.html

March

Fruit Tree Grafting in conjunction with California Rare Fruit Growers
Saturday, March 10, 1 pm – 4 pm; Santa Cruz Grange, Live Oak, 1900 17th Ave, 95062

Seed Starting Workshop with Trish Hildinger
Saturday, March 24, 10 am – 1 pm; UCSC Farm, Trish Hildinger

Backyard Chickens and Ducks with Paul Glowaski
Saturday, March 31, 10 am – 1 pm; UCSC Farm

April

Top 10 Herbs to Grow in an Herb Garden with Darren Huckle
Sunday, April 1, 10 am – 1 pm; UCSC Farm

Bees and Beekeeping with James Cook of Groundswell Farm
Saturday, April 14, 10 am – 1 pm; UCSC Farm

May

Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, May 5, 10 am – 3 pm, and Sunday, May 6, 10 am – 2 pm; Barn Theater, UCSC (corner of Bay & High Streets at the base of the UCSC campus)

Culinary Herb Workshop with Emily Freed
Saturday, May 12, 10 am – 1 pm; UCSC Farm

June

Compost Making Workshop with Zoe Hitchner and Sky DeMuro
Saturday, June 9, 10 am – 1 pm; UCSC Farm

Poetry and Music in the Garden
Saturday, June 23, 12 noon – 2 pm; Alan Chadwick Garden

Grow and Arrange Your Own Bouquets with Zoe Hitchner
Saturday, June 30, 10 am – 1 pm; UCSC Farm

July

Summer Fruit Tree Pruning with Orin Martin and Matthew Sutton
Saturday, July 28, 10 am – 1 pm; UCSC Farm
2012 Calendar of Events (continued)

August

Planting the Thanksgiving Garden with Trish Hildinger
Sunday, August 26, 10 am – 1 pm; UCSC Farm

September

Fall Plant Sale
Friday, September 7, 12 noon – 6 pm; Saturday, September 8, 10 am – 2 pm; Barn Theater, UCSC

Farm-to-Fork Dinner
Sunday, September 9, 4 – 8 pm; UCSC Farm [date tentative, please check calendar for updates]

Harvest Festival
Sunday, September 30, 11 am – 5 pm; UCSC Farm [date tentative, please check calendar for updates]

October

Cover Crops in the Orchard with Orin Martin and Matthew Sutton
Sunday, October 7, 10 am – 1 pm; Chadwick Garden

Workshop Series

Garden Cruz: 3-day Intensive Gardening Course
Taught by staff of the UCSC Farm & Garden, this course will cover the basic suite of skills needed to create and maintain a successful organic garden, including soil analysis and bed preparation, composting, planting, irrigation, crop care, and harvest. Each day will include both lectures and hand-on practice, giving participants a chance to get their hands dirty while they learn. Class size limited to 24

Friday – Sunday, May 18 – 20
Friday – Sunday, July 20 – 22 Alan Chadwick Garden
Cost: $300 general public; $275 FF&G members

Garden Cruz: Organic Matters – 9-week Intensive Gardening Course
provides a solid foundation to further your lifelong study, enjoyment and practice of organic gardening; ideal for home gardeners, school garden teachers, and urban agriculture leaders.
First class & orientation: Wednesday, Aug. 29. Last class: Saturday, Nov. 3 (Wednesday nights and Saturdays) Class size limited to 24
Cost: $1,200 general public; $1,100 FF&G members
Please contact casfs@ucsc.edu or 831.459-3240 for more information.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has.
–Margaret Mead