



# Vintage Quest Acres CSA

220 Greenhill Rd  
Madisonville, TN 37354

Hello,

We receive numerous emails with the same questions so we have decided to answer them for everyone.

## How does it work?

With a preseason payment, you can purchase a "share" of our summer's harvest. You then receive a weekly box of our freshest, seasonal produce during the course of our 20 week harvest season, starting around June and ending around November. Weather determines the exact start and end but you'll know in advance. We will pick your produce the day of or the night before distribution. We store it in a cooler when necessary. Then when we come into town to run the exercise program or do birthing classes we will bring your box to the pick up location.

## CSA

CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. It is a very old system and stands in contrast to the large agro-factory type businesses who sell to various middlemen breaking the connection to the farmer and local produce. In a CSA the customer shares some of the risk and reward of the farming process. Basically you pay us to grow your veggie gardens. In our CSA the farmer makes all decisions regarding types of plants, quantity of plants, planting and harvesting times etc.



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## Share Size

A share is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel which is larger than that of most CSAs. This should keep an average family of 4 in veggies for a week. If you eat restaurant food often you may have aging produce in your fridge. The contents of the box are largely governed by nature but when too much of something (sun or rain) hurts one plant it often helps another. You'll still need to go to the store for grains and dairy etc but you'll find you go less often and spend much less. Lisa is a great cook (Z's opinion) and she has created wonderful meals from CSA boxes for over a decade. We will share tips and recipes with you with each box. The produce come freshly harvested and washed.

## Payments

There are discounts for paying early and an option to pay in installments. Payments can be by check or through PayPal. The application form has our mailing address. The website has a pay now button which takes you to a secure PayPal site and describes the payment options. PayPal allows you to use a credit card, a PayPal balance or your own banking account.

## Sharing Shares

We do not do  $\frac{1}{2}$  shares. However some people take a share and divide the cost and produce with a friend. This is a great way to share a common interest (healthy food, fresh produce, cooking and eating) with someone else. We try to stay out of that process to keep things simple.



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## Visiting the farm

I like the idea of members visiting so you can see what we do, where your food comes from, how it is produced and how much work goes into it. However, visitors take up a huge amount of work time when we are the busiest, can be a liability and may not like the mud, heat, rain, dust or whatever. We have a small, modest home and we really are not yet set up for children or visitors wrt to safety, shelter and toilets. Until May there will be little to see out here as the plants are all small. Requests to visit are common so I set up visitor days early and late in the season unless rained out. Member picnics are the best times to visit as we won't be working and you'll get to meet the other members. In the future we plan to accommodate visitors on a less formal basis. I hate to sound negative about the visits right now but it is an hour to us from Farragut and I want the drive to be worth the effort for all of us.

## Contact Us

Our preferred method of contact is through email:

[Farm@PoweredByNature.net](mailto:Farm@PoweredByNature.net) We love to hear from you and are happy to answer any questions. You can also call the farm at 423-442-7291.

## Unwanted produce.

If you miss a week due to vacation or some other reason let us know ahead of time and we will shift your box to another day or not pack it at all.

Alternatively you can have it picked up by someone else such as a neighbor.

## A Shared Commitment:

When you sign up, you dedicate yourself to being our customer for the



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season, thus providing us a secure market -- a welcome measure of certainty in the fickle world of farming! We, in turn, dedicate ourselves to being your farmers, providing you with a varied, nutritious vegetable diet.

## Shared Risk; Shared Reward

We do our very best to bring you a beautiful and bountiful box each week, but since our boss, Nature, provides no guarantees -- we can't offer any guarantees. One of the premises of a Community Supported Agriculture program is that the shareholder shares, through the veggies, the farmers' experience of nature's mischief and blessings.

## Not To Worry!

The weather woes would probably never rob you of all your veggies. Even with droughts and other challenges some veggies thrive when others struggle so things tend to work out in the end but, again, nature has more control than we do so no promises!

## Pick-up

Each member has a specific day and time to pick-up their food. If you do not retrieve your produce at the right time and place it will create a small problem for the host site. Your vegetables may get donated to charity or disposed of some other way. You are welcome to pick up at the farm, have a friend or family member pick up your share or you can contact us to not pack you a box for that one day (e.g. you may be out of town on vacation).



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## Refunds

There are no refunds for any reason. We must pay taxes, maintain equipment, prepare enough soil, purchase enough seed and tend the crops for you well in advance of the first box. Once the season starts it is difficult to replace your membership. For these reasons we do not refund share purchases. You can sell your remaining share to someone else just let us know who the new face will be at the pick-up location. If you forget or choose not to pick up your share it is forfeit and cannot be 'banked' or refunded in anyway. We cannot save your share while you are on vacation and we prefer not to make special trips back to the pick-up location to retrieve forgotten shares.

## Milk?

Yes we have dairy cows and goats. No we cannot sell you milk. We have only enough for our own delicious milk, cheese, yogurt and butter. Besides, it is too much trouble. We recommend Cruze Dairy Farm milk.

## Boxes

The easiest way for us to get your veggies to you is via a produce box. They are wax-coated  $\frac{3}{4}$  bushel boxes. We are "giving" each of you 3 boxes for the season. This will encourage recycling and reuse, and cut down on our expenses. The box should have your name on it. This helps us when we pack the shares to make sure that we have everyone. We will be experimenting with lining the bottom of the boxes with newspaper to reduce



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our need to use plastic packaging for items like beans, and peas that may fall out the crack in the bottom.

Even though the boxes are waxed, they are not waterproof. Please try to keep the boxes out of the rain, or other wet places.

If possible, it is easiest for us if you leave your boxes as is. No need to break it down, or even remove the newspaper. Bring the empty box to your pick up location and leave it there. If it is raining, and we have left a tarp there, please put your box under it. Some people choose to bring a separate bag or vessel for taking home their produce and leave the box at the pick up location. The choice is yours.

## Egg Cartons

We do reuse the egg cartons so we appreciate it if you return them with your box. We will also gratefully take any extras that you may have.

## Clam Shells

Like the boxes, we are going to give you a TBD number of shells for the season. You are responsible for cleaning these to your comfort level and returning them to us. We will use them for items like blackberries, cherry tomatoes and other delicate items. If you have not returned your allotted shells, we will use plastic bags to package the delicate items. We will make our best effort to put delicate items at the top of the box but items may shift during transport and get 'smooshed'. Please try to keep your name on these shells.



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## Plastic Bags

While we would like to get away from plastics if we can, we recognize that it is hard to do a share distribution without it. Much of the produce needs to be stored in a refrigerator before it gets packed in the box. Plastic is the best solution we can think of for our humid, hot climate. Reusing the bags seems a bit impractical since they are hard to wash/dry and keep free of mold/mildew. We are open to creative suggestions to using new bags every time.