

The Dickinson College Farm Campus Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program

What is a CSA?

Generally speaking, CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture and is an innovative way to connect local farms and local eaters. According to the USDA, as of a 2007 survey, there were over 13,000 CSA programs in North America, of which **12,549** are in the United States. Members of CSA programs agree to cover a portion the planned costs of the farm operations and in exchange they receive shares of the farm's bounty. Members also shoulder part of the risks of farming, such as adverse weather or pests. The DC Farm's Campus Supported Agriculture (CSA) program aims to connect our campus community with fresh and organically grown produce from the College Farm and helps to connect its members to the wider local food system.



CSA programs have been supplying families with fresh produce since the concept began in Japan back in the 1960s. Farmers adopt this model to market their crops, build local economies and help shape communities around nourishing food.

What will the Dickinson Farm CSA be like?

This year the Dickinson Farm is gearing up for a great growing season! The 2013 CSA program will commence in mid-May and run until the last week in October. CSA members will have the opportunity to select from two CSA share sizes; regular and small.

A **regular share (24 weeks)** receives produce **every week**, while **small share (12 weeks)** members pick up their vegetables **every other week**. The size of the CSA share is the same: the only difference is the frequency of the pickup! During the CSA season, members will receive freshly harvested in-season Certified Organic vegetables, fruits, and herbs that have been grown without the use of synthetic chemicals. We grow over 50 different crop varieties on our farm and CSA members can expect to receive a rich assortment of crops each week!

We continue to advance the agricultural practices on the farm, exploring innovative methods for building soil health and crop quality. Our goal is to continue to cultivate an agricultural environment that supports biodiversity, promotes sustainable land management practices, and grows healthy food for our farm community!

In addition to fresh produce each week, the farm CSA pick up will have additional items for sale. This includes local cheeses, eggs, yogurt, whole chickens and other delectable treats. For CSA members who do not pick up at the farm we will have Dickinson College Farm eggs and, via pre-order, whole chickens available when in season at our on-campus pick up location.

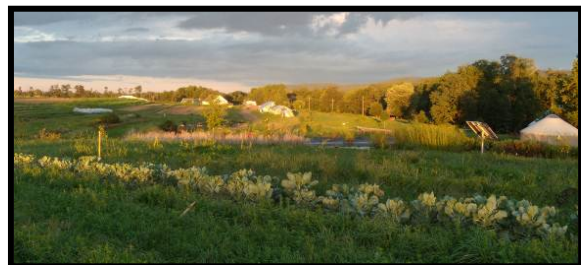
CSA members can choose between picking up their share at the farm and having their share delivered to them on campus (a modest delivery fee will apply).

Additional Perks

The Dickinson College Farm will also have a selection of pick-your-own crops available to CSA members. This will include culinary herbs plus sauce tomatoes, berries and flowers! CSA members are encouraged to take advantage of these crops at no additional charge during farm business hours (M-Sat., dawn to dusk). Additionally, the farm is a wonderful environment for an afternoon stroll or picnic. We encourage our CSA members to feel at home on the farm!

We will continue to partner with area farms this coming season in an effort to provide you with even more local food options! Interested Dickinson College CSA members can choose to participate in an additional CSA program that offers seasonal fruit. The applications for additional CSAs will be made available in emails that we send to our CSA member list.

Our goal is to get you connected with the array of choices available locally. Your regular pickup location will serve as the drop off for these additional CSA programs.



**CONTINUING FOR THE 2013 CSA SEASON: ALL DICKINSON CSA MEMBERS
WILL RECEIVE 10% OFF AT THE DICKINSON FARM STAND
AT THE FARMERS ON THE SQUARE MARKET.**

What is in Season & What to Expect?

SPRING CROPS: Strawberries, spinach, salad mix, radishes, Asian greens, scallions, lettuce, sugar snap peas, carrots, cabbage, Swiss chard, kale, fresh herbs and more!

SUMMER CROPS: Most of the above plus beets, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, potatoes, cucumbers, summer squash, zucchini, onions, melons, flowers, herbs, and more!

FALL CROPS: A lot of the above plus fall sugar snap peas, garlic, winter squash, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, leafy greens, turnips, leeks, sweet potatoes, parsnips and other surprises!

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What if I will be out of town on a pick up day?

RESCHEDULING POLICY: Rescheduling of shares can be accommodated if scheduled with advanced notice and within the same week (Tuesday to Friday or Friday to Tuesday pickups.) This means that if you know you will miss a pickup on Tuesday, June 5th, we cannot reschedule that pickup for Friday, July 6th. It will be difficult for us to reschedule **if received after the following times: 7:00pm Sunday (for Tuesday pickup) or 7:00pm Wednesday (for Friday pickup)**. Please be sure to contact Jenn with rescheduling requests by emailing her at halpinj@dickinson.edu.

2. I totally forgot to pick up my CSA share or I forgot to email Jenn before the rescheduling deadline!

MAKEUP POLICY: Requests for Tuesday/Friday swaps or makeups received after the deadline (as outlined above) cannot be accommodated. We harvest shares on the day before each pickup day. If the farm does not receive word that you will miss a pickup (per the request above), then CSA shares left at the pickup location at the end of the day are made available to our farm staff and are also included in weekly donations destined for Project SHARE. If you are in a pinch for veggies, please contact Jenn directly to see what options are available.

3. Why is there a delivery charge for the campus pickup option?

While many will agree that having the CSA pick up on campus is more environmentally-friendly for those who live close to campus (for those who live close to the farm, picking up at the farm is more environmentally friendly!), it does create additional work for the farm staff. The fee for our campus pick up option reflects the added work that we do to organize, load, transport and off load your CSA share to our campus pick up location and reload at the end of the CSA pickup each Friday.

4. What happens to CSA leftovers?

The farm employs 9-15 students, interns and staff each season in addition to regular farm volunteers. Many of the CSA leftovers go home with our employees and are made into meals or shared with friends. The farm continues to donate crops to Project SHARE (over 2300 lbs in 2012!) and a portion of the CSA leftovers go to this cause.

5. Is it possible to volunteer at the farm?

Yes! We welcome volunteers to join in the fun at the farm. Volunteers should be at least 15 years old and able to work alongside the farm crew Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 7:30am and 4:30pm. Parents with younger children are welcome to help out, too but we require full parental supervision while at the farm.

6. Is it possible to join the CSA in mid-season?

Most certainly! We welcome new members as long as we have space. The popularity of the Dickinson CSA program is growing every year. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that there will be space available for the mid-season sign up periods! The early bird gets the full CSA experience but we will prorate latecomers. *Depending on space*, we plan to accept prorated applications based on the following fee schedule:

For each week that is missed by prorated share members, the per-pickup cost to join the CSA will be increased by 1.5%. The full-season weekly cost for our CSA is \$20.83/week. Therefore, if you would choose to start your prorated share on July 15th, you will miss 8 weeks of the CSA. Your prorated per-pickup cost will be \$23.33, or an increase of 12% from the full-season rate of \$20.83/pickup. If you start on September 2nd, you would miss 15 weeks of the CSA. Therefore, your per-pickup cost would be \$25.50, a 22.5% increase over our full-season rate of \$20.83/pickup. Payment plans are not available for prorated members: payment must be presented in full at least one week before the first scheduled pickup. If you have any questions, let us know!

7. What is the CSA X-TREME?

The CSA X-TREME is our version of season extension! The farm offers a month-long CSA share option for interested members. During the month of November, CSA X-Tremers can expect to find fall favorites like potatoes, onions, leeks, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, leafy greens, salad greens, winter squash, Asian greens and a wonderful selection of roots! More information on the CSA X-TREME will be publicized in the fall. Space is limited.

8. What CSA events will be on the calendar this year?

This year, we will hold two main CSA events: May Day Celebration on May 4th from 10am-12pm and Family Farm Olympics in September (exact date TBD). In addition to these events, we will offer one class per month through our Sustainability School partnership with the Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture! CSA members are able to attend for the discounted member rate (\$2 off per class). Check out the full workshop and event schedule on our blog under the "Events" tab: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/farm>.



The Dickinson College Farm 2013 CSA Application

Please complete the application and send it to Ali Frohman via campus mail (Kaufman) or email (frohmana@dickinson.edu). Please make checks payable to **Dickinson College Farm**.

TODAY'S DATE _____ NAME* _____

CAMPUS OFFICE LOCATION: _____ CAMPUS EXTENSION: _____

HOME PHONE _____ E-MAIL** _____

*Please list the names of people who will be splitting the cost of a CSA share to ensure that all members receive 10% off at our stand at the weekly Farmers on the Square market.

**Please list all email addresses of all CSA members so that all members can receive important CSA updates!

Please note two payment options listed below

I will pay in full now. **Early bird special:** Send in completed application & payment by March 15th at 5pm and receive a copy of the FairShare CSA Coalition's nationally renowned cookbook, "From Asparagus to Zucchini", a great CSA member's kitchen companion! Members who choose the payment plan option are also eligible!

_____ \$500 for a Regular Share (24 weeks; week of May 20th to week of October 28th)

_____ \$250 for a Small Share (12 weeks; week of May 27th to week of October 28th)

I would like to participate in the CSA payment plan. Enclosed is 25% of the total CSA share cost plus a \$10 paperwork fee. You will receive payment reminders each month so that the balance can be paid off in three additional installments.

_____ \$135 for a Regular Share (\$510) _____ \$72.50 for a Small Share (\$260)

Please choose one pickup option:

_____ I will pick up at the College Farm on Tuesdays between noon and 6:30pm

_____ I would like to have my CSA share delivered to campus on Fridays between noon and 6:30pm. I have added the appropriate delivery fee to my total. (Regular Share: \$15.00 Small Share: \$8.00)

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ CHECK # _____

Make checks payable to: Dickinson College Farm

CSA FARM/CSA MEMBER AGREEMENT

I understand that the success of this CSA program depends on my financial support. I realize there are many variables involved with farming. I am comfortable with reaping the benefits of a bountiful harvest as well as experiencing any crop losses due to unforeseen circumstances. I have also read over and understand the farm protocol for CSA pickup rescheduling and make-up policies.

Please sign here _____