

Snead's Farm 2015 CSA

Membership Contract

What is a CSA?

CSA stands for "Community Supported Agriculture." CSAs are a unique way for people to have a better knowledge of the food they put in their bodies and all that goes into producing it. Joining the Snead's Farm CSA is a way for you, as a consumer, to establish a direct partnership with our family farm. Your payment is an up-front commitment to support the farm. In exchange, you receive a "dividend" of the freshest produce possible. Being a CSA member is like buying a "share" in our farm's product for the year. Members take on some of the risks and share in the benefits of growing food along with the farmer. CSAs are not about getting discounted produce, nor are they cooperatives. However, the Snead's Farm CSA strives to be unsurpassed in the combination of value, quality, freshness, quantity and variety of items offered with the least amount of risk possible. In the 2014 season, our members broke even on the price of their CSA with the July 23 distribution, the 12th of 22 total distributions for the year. That means those last 10 distributions were virtually free!

Snead's Farm CSA shares include fresh produce from our farm, as well as from C&T Produce of Stafford County, The Canning Farm of King George, Agriberry of Hanover County and Braehead Farm of Fredericksburg. These partnerships allow us to offer a wider variety of items in our weekly boxes, and reduce the amount of risk to the consumer.

What does a CSA share include?

Members of the 2015 Snead's Farm CSA will pick up a weekly share of goods starting May 6, 2015, and continuing every Wednesday through Aug. 26, 2015. Members receive a quadruple pickup of a minimum of 24 fall items on Oct. 7. The weekly box consists of a minimum of six "items" of seasonal fruits and/or vegetables or other farm products provided weekly. The size of the "items" will vary from a pound, a half-pint, pint, quart, a number of vegetables, a dozen or a half-dozen, a flat or a bag. The size of a share will vary based on the yield of fruit and vegetable fields, plants and orchards, and of the laying hens, which depends on the forces of nature. However, Snead's Farm and its partners have enough variety, growing more than 40 different crops, that enough shall come to fruition to afford everyone a good supply of almost everything. Everything we grow here at the farm can be irrigated.

Snead's Farm CSA members also have **exclusive** access to pick-your-own opportunities for strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and table grapes whenever there is a plentiful crop. Snead's Farm does not provide pick-your-own access to the general public; this is a benefit we reserve for our CSA members **only**. *[Note: In 2014, we had a poor crop of blackberries due to a very cold winter; however we were able to offer pick-your-own with all other fruits.]*

In addition to all of the above, CSA members also receive a 20 percent discount off all items sold at the farm stand on CSA pickup Wednesdays.

More information:

A share in the Snead's Farm CSA is big enough for two families to split, and almost all of our shares are split between two families. This cuts the per-family share cost in half and also allows families to take turns on pickup day or when they are on vacation.

Our family and longtime workers consider the CSA to be the most “farm fun” venture we’ve ever done. We make it our goal each year to over-deliver for our members. As Emmett Snead says, “It’s like being Santa Claus of the land.”

The average number of items distributed in our weekly boxes: 2010: 9 items; 2011: 10 items; 2012: 17 items; 2013: 17 items; 2014: 21 items.

Due to overwhelming public demand, Christmas trees will no longer be included in the CSA. As a result, the cost of this year’s CSA is \$80 less than 2014 to account for the discontinuation of two white pines per share.

Payment: A share of the 2015 Snead’s Farm CSA costs \$800. There will be a 10 percent discount of \$80 if payment is received before Nov. 3, 2014.

Pickup: Pickup is every Wednesday at the roadside stand in front of the farm from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., except for May and early June, when pickup will be at the carport at the house. If you know that you will miss your pickup, your options are to have someone pick it up for you or to simply forgo your share for the week. Cash refunds or share replacements will not be offered for any missed pickups. Please know that you are welcome to visit, picnic, stroll around the farm, see the chickens, horses, llamas, calves, dogs and cats and also see where your produce is grown on pickup day. We do not split shares or save back half-shares for others on pickup day.

How to join: To join the 2015 Snead’s Farm CSA, please print out this form and send it with your payment to: Emmett Snead, 18294 Tidewater Trail, Fredericksburg VA 22408. Please make checks payable to Emmett Snead, for \$720 to be received before Nov. 3, and \$800 thereafter.

If you are splitting your share with another family, please list just **one name** that both families will use at pickup time. Please note that we do not split shares or save half-shares on pickup day.

Name (please PRINT first and last):

Phone number:

Address:

Read and sign below:

I understand that my membership payment entitles me to a weekly share of goods harvested for the CSA during the 2015 growing season from Snead’s Farm, C&T Produce, The Canning Farm, Braehead Farm and Agriberry. I understand that this is a community-supported venture and although the growers are committed to the best of their ability to provide high-quality produce, there are risks in agriculture that need to be shared by the whole community. I am responsible for picking up my produce during scheduled pickup hours on Wednesdays. No special arrangements can be made if I do not pick up my box on time. I am also responsible for signing up on the website and reading the CSA newsletters that are posted on the Snead’s Farm website at www.sneadsfarm.com. I have read and understand the information in this agreement and agree to the details of membership outlined herein:

Signature/Date: _____