



Ignatius Farm CSA

Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph
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www.ignatiusguelph.ca/csa/

WELCOME TO IGNATIUS FARM CSA

The information provided is intended to give both our new and returning members some helpful details about how our CSA works. If you still have questions after reviewing this please feel free to get in touch – contact details are at the end.

What is a CSA?

The philosophy behind Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) is that it links farmers with the people who eat the food. It's different than buying from a farmer's market because CSA members become shareholders in the farm. They pay for their share of the year's harvest up front, and take the same risks and opportunities that the growing season brings, just as the farmer does. Every CSA is unique and each has a slightly different way of organizing itself. CSAs are found around the world, and range in size from a handful of members to over a thousand members.

About Ignatius Farm CSA

At Ignatius Farm CSA, we sell small and regular shares to over 250 households. We also provide a prepackaged option, where your share is collected and packaged by the farm staff for a fee. As a shareholder you are entitled to a share of each week's harvest throughout the growing season, which is 20 weeks from late June to the end of October. Crops harvested on the farm vary with the seasons, and each year certain crops do better than others. Typical spring vegetables include lettuce, Asian greens, radishes, spinach and garlic scapes. Later in the summer the share includes summer squash, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, leeks and melons. Late summer and early fall bring the winter squashes and the root crops, such as potatoes, beets, carrots, parsnips and onions. Fall pickups also generally include apples or apple products. We also offer winter shares of storage crops, which are collected in 2 farm pickups – the 2nd weeks of December and January. All of the food grown at Ignatius is certified organic. Our wonderful farmers are Heather Lekx, Carl Leslie and Donald Bowyer. Each year the farmers are also assisted by a number of energetic interns who come to Ignatius to learn more about organic farming and by countless volunteers. A limited number of working shares are also available in exchange for produce. Please contact your farmers for details.

When and how will I be notified about the start of the season?

The start of the season is, of course, dependant on Mother Nature but pickups generally begin the third or fourth week of June. As soon as we know the date we will be in touch with you. We will be using e-mail as our main method of communication. If you do not have e-mail you will receive a telephone call from a Core Group member. If you haven't heard from us for some reason please call or e-mail (519) 824 -1250 ext. 245 or csa_members@ignatiusguelph.ca The start date for the pickups will also be posted on our website and in our voice mail greeting for the CSA members phone number.

We ask that you not leave messages about the start date on our farmers' voice mail as the farm team is extremely busy in the fields at this time of year. Instead, please use the member's voice mail.

How do I get my veggies?

Pickup days are either Tuesday from 3:30 to 7:00 pm, or Friday from 2:30 to 6:00 pm. Whichever you select will be your pickup day for the season. In order to keep share sizes consistent we try to have an equal number of members scheduled for each day. If one day is much more popular than the other we may ask members to volunteer to switch days.

On your pickup day, simply come to the store with your own supply of bags, boxes or baskets. The week's produce will be laid out in crates along a table. Signs on the wall tell you what you can take for your week's share. Much of it is by weight (e.g., 2 pounds of carrots) so there are scales where you can weigh out your share of produce. Other items are by number (e.g., 2 summer squash), and sometimes you get to choose from a range of options. The farm store also sells honey, apple products (cider, apple butter and apple syrup) copies of our CSA cookbook and other farming publications.

At certain times you may also be able to pick your own herbs, flowers and some crops, such as peas, beans and tomatoes from the field. There will be a note on the wall when u-pick options are available.

Can I buy extra vegetables?

We plant several extra shares for individual sales to complement our tailored restaurant shares. To purchase additional vegetables, contact Donald at (519) 824-1250 ext. 275 or csamarket@ignatiusguelph.ca by 3pm the day before your designated pickup day so that we can plan our harvest appropriately.

Can I change my pickup day?

You may change your pickup day once during the season, and it must be prearranged in advance by calling or e-mailing the farmers. The change can only be for the other day within the week (i.e., from Tuesday to Friday or vice versa), and not for a second pickup within a completely different week.

If you are away on vacation, you can have a friend or relative pick up your share. It's a fun activity that brings people out on to our land and lets them experience the workings of a CSA.

All shares that are not picked up are donated to a local service organization and will no longer be available for pickup.

Some pick-up tips and etiquette

A CSA is community minded, so although we don't like to dictate "rules", the following are tips to help make pickups run smoothly for the farm team and your fellow members.

1. Try to remember to bring your own bags/baskets/boxes. We generally have extra plastic bags available if you forget, but sometimes we run out. If you have extra bags to donate, these are always appreciated.

2. Please show up on time and try not to come right at the last minute. The farm team starts their day very early, so coming to pick up your share at closing extends the work hours of the farm staff and can create a stressful and rushed experience for you. If you know you will be late, call ahead to the farm and let them know so someone can put aside your share for you.
*Please note that a fee for packaging your veggies will apply.
3. When weighing things out it speeds up the process if you put your bag on the scale and fill and weigh it at the same time rather than transfer from crate to scale and scale to bag. It's even faster if you fill your bag partway first and then put it on the scale and add/take away as needed to adjust the weight.
4. For those of you who are splitting a share, we ask that share partners either come together or designate one individual to pick up; this avoids confusion.
5. If you're not sure what to do with an item ask aloud to the room. Chances are someone going around the table has a good recipe idea.
6. Do talk to the farmer and interns staffing the pickup. They like to answer questions about the harvest and are happy to tell you what's coming up in the field.
7. Do feel free to bring recipes, artwork and other contributions to share in the newsletter. The newsletter is the main way to build the "community" part of the CSA – so read it and think about participating in the events advertised.

Want to get more involved in your CSA?

A dedicated group of fellow members volunteer their time to carry out many of the business and office related aspects of the CSA, thus allowing our farmers and interns the ability to focus their energy on growing your food. The Core Group meets once a month for about 2 hours. Tasks organized by this group include putting together the newsletter, organizing the annual membership Open House, promoting the CSA at local community events, responding to member inquiries, intern hospitality, assisting with the annual Ignatius Organic Harvest Feast fundraiser, etc. New members are always welcome to join the Core Group.

If you are more of a "hands-on" type, members and their family and friends are always welcome to assist with field work. Special work bees happen at various times throughout the season, and extra hands are always appreciated on pick up days to help bring in the harvest. If you'd like to volunteer in the field, there is always a sign-up sheet for harvest help at pick ups. You can also contact the farmer directly for more details prior to the start of the season.

Finally, special events and activities may be organized throughout the season for members and their families. Examples in past years include canning workshops, open garden days, work bees followed by pot-luck lunches, and the Autumn Harvest Potluck. If you have an idea for a workshop/special event or would like to facilitate one let us know as we're always interested in meeting you and building spirit within our CSA community.

We look forward to meeting you and hope that you enjoy being a member of the CSA!

Please pass along your extra CSA brochure or our website to a friend.

We greatly appreciate your help in promoting Ignatius Farm CSA!

How to reach us

Please let us know of any changes to your contact information.

Member phone number: (519) 824-1250 ext. 245

Member email: csa_members@ignatiusguelph.ca

Farmer phone number: (519) 824-1250 ext. 275

Heather Lekx: CSA Farm Manager: csafarmer@ignatiusguelph.ca

Don Bowyer: Sales and CSA Pickups: csamarket@ignatiusguelph.ca

Carl Leslie: CSA Field and Education Coordinator: csafield@ignatiusguelph.ca

Website: www.ignatiusguelph.ca/csa/