

2023 SUMMER CSA MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

Please read the following information carefully. This is the agreement you are signing up for when you join our 2023 CSA program. We can't wait to feed you all through the growing season!!

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

As your farmers, we have a commitment in this relationship, too! We are committed to providing you with an abundant variety of fresh, delicious and nutrient-dense vegetables every week of the season. Although we are not certified organic, we do believe in the principles of organic certification, but we like to think we take it a step even further, a step beyond organic. Simply put, we use absolutely no chemicals whatsoever on our farm - not even those chemicals which are approved for certified organic farming. To us, the most important thing is our soil. We protect our soil. We cherish our soil. We work to regenerate our soil so that we are continuously building nutrient content, mineral content, biodiversity and life in our soil. We also farm by hand. This is a very important principle at Happy Hills - every inch of our soil, every crop, every harvest - its all managed and grown by our hands. This is our way to be fully in tune with the food we are growing and our farm environment. It is these practices which make it so that we can ensure you are getting the highest quality, most nutritious and safest to eat produce possible. **And that, friends, is our commitment to you!**

A Note About Crop Availability and Failure - We grow a large variety of crops throughout the year, but there are certain crops that don't perform well at certain stages in the season. We will always strive to provide a great variety in your weekly box, but please keep in mind that seasonality does come into play and certain items will not always be available. You may see less lettuces during the high heat of the summer for example, because many varieties dislike very hot temperatures. Crop failure is a reality of any farmer. In some instances, we may lose an entire crop due to adverse weather conditions or unexpected events. Participating in our CSA is sharing this risk, and understanding that things like this happen on occasion.

Here are some things we experienced in recent years:

2018 - August was so smokey we saw rarely any sun. The result was we had next to no tomato crop.

2019 - We lost our entire onion crop due to earth worms (go figure!!), cut worms, and too much spring rain.

2020 - We had almost no bean crop! This was due to a very, very wet spring and wacky summertime storms. We had the most intense storm hit us on June 23 that took out a lot of crops and almost our tomato tunnels. We then got hit by the most intense hail storm we have ever seen in Rossland at the end of July that almost destroyed the bean plants that did manage to survive.

2021 - We had almost no salad mix or lettuce! We had so much wildlife pressure that we lost more than 500 heads of romaine lettuce (bears ate them!!) and every single bed of our salad mix in the fall was decimated by bears and deer!

2022 - We had 4 days of sunshine throughout the entire months of April + May. This delayed many of our crops, and made it impossible to grow certain long season crops (leeks, pumpkins, most winter squash, etc).

We work so hard to navigate and overcome every hurdle that comes our way. Whether its freak hail storms in july, or 40 degree temperatures in June, or whether we are so smoked out that we still suffer respiratory consequences in October.... or whether the wildlife in our area is so hungry that they need to survive off of lettuce of all things... we always do our best to mitigate these problems and do better next year.

COMMUNICATION

Our primary form of communication with you will be via email. It is very important that we have your correct email address and that you are able receive emails from us! Please check your junk mail box if you are not receiving emails from us - particularly if you use a hotmail email address.

Email is the easiest way for you to reach us at any time as well. If you cannot email us, please send a text to our cell phone. You can phone us, however, you will likely receive our answering machine. We do our best to check our messages regularly, but we prefer for you to email or text if you need to reach us. Periodically throughout the season (usually once per month) we will send email updates or announcements, or just a hello to garner some feedback.

If you are trying to reach us, please understand that our work days are very long, typically starting by 5 AM and not ending until 10 PM. We appreciate your patience while you are awaiting an email or text response, or a call back from us.

REFUNDS OR CANCELLATIONS

The purpose of Community Supported Agriculture programs are to join the farmer and eater in a relationship that sees a shared investment, risk and reward - like a partnership! Shall you wish to cancel your membership, we cannot offer a refund at any time. The biggest reason being is that the financial investment we receive from our CSA program is entirely invested into our farm by the end of March.

Our CSA relationships support and sustain our growing season, and in return, our farm supports and sustains you with nutritious, healthy food for the duration of the program. Your investment - and ours, too - is for the entire growing season, or the entire box session you have signed up for.

We understand that things come up. If for any reason you are unable to continue with your membership, you are welcome to transfer the remainder of your share to another person. You may do this at any time throughout the season. Please notify us as soon as possible if this is something you wish to do. We may be able to help you find someone who can take over your CSA share!

Thank you for your understanding and for your part in this shared commitment to feed you good food!

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Periodically we will reach out to our members for feedback, and at the end of the season we will send out a member survey to see what folks liked or didn't like about the program. Throughout the season if you have questions or would like to chat with us please connect with us via email or in person at the farm store or farmers' market.