

# McConnells' Farm & Market 2021 CSA Agreement

**For 2021 we are accepting reservations for our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) agreement.**

- To summarize, you support us throughout the season and in turn we will offer you our finest fruits and vegetables at a discount, as well as reserve produce if certain items are in short supply, offer a wider selection, and provide deals on non-CSA items.
- You'll receive a 10% discount on your weekly allotment as well as be eligible for additional discounts which often are worth several dollars per pick-up (our CSA members had the opportunity to purchase our finest peaches below wholesale price last year).
- When appropriate, we'll reserve produce that is scarce in order to ensure our CSA members have an opportunity for purchase, and we always strive to have our best selection on CSA pick-up days.
- We will only accept a maximum of 80 Plan A and 80 Plan B members this year, so don't wait to join. We'll announce on Facebook and via email if we are nearing those numbers.

**We are offering two CSA plans again this year:**

## **Plan A:**

- You pay \$304 prior to the season (\$19/week for sixteen weeks) for \$21/week worth of fresh fruits and vegetables or other items in the market barn (we expect to be open for eighteen weeks, so you can skip two weeks whenever it is convenient for you).
- Each week, on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday (from the first full week in July (6, 7 or 8 July 2021) to the first week of November (2, 3 or 4 November 2021)), you'll be able to select \$21 worth of fresh fruits and vegetables or other food items we offer at our market on the farm.
- We've added an additional skip week (for a total of two skip weeks for Plan A), and will therefore not offer double pick-ups for missed weeks.
- Some weeks we will have a mandatory item or items which will be worth approximately \$5.00 of your weekly allotment.

## **Plan B:**

- You pay \$240 prior to the season (\$30/for one pickup every other week) for \$33 worth of fresh fruits and vegetables or other items in the market barn for eight allotments.
- First pick-up will be the second full week of July (13, 14 or 15 July 2021), then every other week after that for a total of eight pick-ups (until 2, 3 or 4 November 2021). Starting this year, there is one "miss week" built into the schedule  
**\* pick-ups must be on designated weeks (27, 28 or 29 July /10, 11 or 12 August / 24, 25 or 26 August / 7, 8 or 9 September / 21, 22 or 23 September / 5, 6 or 7 October / 19, 20 or 21 October and 2, 3 or 4 November) on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday (this allows us to adjust our picking in preparation for our CSA members).**
- We will sometimes have a mandatory item or items which will be worth approximately \$5 of your \$30 allotment.

**How the CSA plans benefit you:**

- You save 10% off all fresh produce and other items we offer in our market barn.
- Additional savings on particular items (i.e. specific varieties of apples and vegetables discounted when they are especially plentiful). CSA members had the opportunity to buy our finest peaches for \$15/peck.
- Members of our CSA will have priority both in terms of quantity and quality; even when certain produce is scarce.
- Any pick-your-own produce (e.g. blueberries) available during the week can count as part of your allotment.
- You or a family-member might be "forced" into trying fruits or vegetables you normally wouldn't and might actually like it (and we often include a recipe for it).

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## Why we especially value our CSA members:

- We can count on your regular business throughout the season.
- We can broaden our selection of produce and experiment a bit with what we grow, as well as arrange for additional trading with neighboring farmers. The more members of our CSA, the more possibilities.
- The CSA spreads our business out more evenly throughout the week as fruits & vegetables ripen by the weather, not the day of the week.
- We enjoy meeting people that can appreciate the fullness of home-grown, local produce as well as the proud tradition that the McConnell Family has farmed these lands for over 230 years.

## CSA Details:

- You'll pay by check or cash prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> of April (by mail or in person) We'll be around the market barn the last Saturday in March (March 27<sup>th</sup>) from 1:00 to 4:00 PM to answer any questions and accept CSA applications in person. We'll maintain a list with your name and number on it, and each week (or every other week if you select Plan B), Tuesday through Thursday, you'll come out and select your \$21 worth of groceries (or \$33 for Plan B). You're free to buy more if you like, obviously. Local milk, ice cream, cider, honey, canned goods, bakery items, etc. will count as part of the allotment (the same as the last several years). The deal is not transferable, you or a member of your household must be the one conducting the pick-up. Your share is good for one pick-up per week (Plan A has two "miss" weeks built in, and Plan B has one). All produce is locally grown. We make no promises on what produce we will have available and when, for we cannot control the weather and optimal growing conditions. As always, we hope for the best, but rely on cooperative weather. If you have any requests for specific fruits or vegetables for this season, please let us know and we'll see what we can do.

**We wish to provide our CSA members with fresh, local, seasonal fruits & vegetables; a portion of our harvest. We work to provide our customers with the best quality produce in turn for their support of our love of farming. This CSA agreement outlines our shared commitment to that relationship.**

## Becoming a Part of Our CSA

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between our farm and you, our customer. Rather than simply purchasing food, our customers become "members" of this CSA farm who receive a portion of the farm's harvest.

Our CSA runs from the first full week in July to the first week of November (for plan A, you pick the sixteen of the eighteen we are open weeks that are most convenient for you). Members are responsible for showing up at the farm every week (for Plan A) or every other week (for Plan B) on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday (your choice) to pick up their share of fresh produce. You will select \$21 (Plan A) or \$33 (Plan B) worth of vegetables, fruits or other food items.

## Our Growing Practices – Sustainable Agriculture

The farm is not certified organic, but instead our growing practices range from non-certified organic to integrated pest management (IPM), although we do occasionally do business with certified organic growers in the area. IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. We as a family are involved in every stage of production of our crops, live on the farm and drink the well and spring water, and consume what we grow, so following safety precautions are as important to us as it is to you. Additionally, we rely on crop

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rotation, planting ground covers, drip irrigation, and other techniques associated with sustainability. Add to this a drastically shortened food supply chain for our customers and it is easy to see how we all benefit.

## **The Produce We Expect for 2021**

July: peaches, plums, nectarines, sweet corn, tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers, zucchini, green peppers, hot peppers, lettuce, onions, fresh herbs, and apples (Lodi and Pristine)

August: peaches, plums, nectarines, sweet corn, tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers, zucchini, green peppers, hot peppers, lettuce, onions, blue berries, watermelons, potatoes, fresh herbs, and apples (McIntosh, Gala, Golden Supreme, and Honeycrisp)

September: peaches, sweet corn, tomatoes, green beans, cucumbers, zucchini, green peppers, hot peppers, lettuce, onions, potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, swiss chard, fresh herbs and apples (McIntosh, Gala, Golden Supreme, Honeycrisp, Cortland, Jonagold, Jonathan, September Wonder Fuji, and Golden Delicious)

October: tomatoes, onions, potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, swiss chard, winter squash (acorn, butternut, buttercup, spaghetti, and blue hubbard), pumpkins and apples (Cortland, Jonagold, Jonathan, Fuji, Mutsu/Crispin, Golden & Red Delicious, Stayman & Turley Winesap, Granny Smith and Arkansas Black)

\*We also carry local Brunton's milk and ice cream, dry goods, cider, jams and jellies, honey, and baked goods in the market barn which can count toward the CSA allotment. Additionally, we expect to conduct a farm/orchard tour for CSA members only again this year on date that is convenient for those interested (we'll take a vote).

## **Member Fees**

By selling membership in advance of the growing season (April 30, 2021 is the last day to sign-up, unless we sell out of allotments prior to that), CSA allows us to plan with some certainty when determining what we'll plant.

## **Our Season and our Business Hours:**

We expect to open for the season the first week of July and close for the year at the end of the first week of November. Our hours are: Monday through Saturday, 10AM to 6PM and Sunday 10AM to 4PM. Pick-ups can be made anytime from 10AM to 6PM Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

## **Communicating with Us**

The best way to communicate with us is via email (prior to the start of the season) [info@mcconnells-farm.com](mailto:info@mcconnells-farm.com) and phone (during the season) (724) 375-9568. We will do our best to respond as quickly as possible, but please understand that we spend most of our time in the field and do not regularly check the phone messages out of season. We expect email to be the primary means of communicate with you, besides in person each week when you pick up your produce.

*"The family farm in America has all but vanished, and with it we are losing centuries of social and civic wisdom imparted by the agrarian life... In the absence of an agrarian creed, no intellectual has stepped forward to craft a higher culture for the people that is beyond materialism and consumerism. No abstract thinker dares to advocate the love of soil, a legacy of hard work, loyalty to family, town, and country, or even fealty to a common culture."*

-Victor Davis Hanson *Democracy Without Farmers*

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## Member Contact Information:

Were you a CSA Member during 2020 Season? Yes \_\_\_ or No \_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I agree to purchase membership in the CSA. I understand that, although unlikely, the farm may change parts of this agreement related to production and distribution, but only in an extreme circumstance. In the event of a catastrophic peach crop failure, the farm reserves the right remain closed until apple season (late August)-if this happens, CSA members will be given the opportunity to receive a full or partial refund. I understand that I will be contacted via email and telephone in advance of any changes to this agreement. Also, I agree that I must pick-up my allotments in accordance with the schedule (my choice of either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday on designated weeks) in this agreement.

Please check one – Plan A: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$304) - or - Plan B: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$240)

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail completed and signed form and check (made payable to *McConnells' Farm*) to:**

McConnells' Farm & Market  
**ATTN: CSA**  
294 New Bethlehem Church Road  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

All CSA Agreements and accompanying payments are due no later than April 30, 2021.

Contact info:

[info@mconnells-farm.com](mailto:info@mconnells-farm.com)

(724) 375-9568 (during the season)

We'll send a reminder email at the beginning of the season to remind you of your first pick-up. Thank you for supporting us. We look forward to seeing you this year!