

# Crossroads' 2018 Multi-Farm CSA Member Agreement

## Section 1. Introducing the Crossroads Multi-Farm CSA

### A. Becoming a Part of Our CSA

Crossroads Community Food Network is building a healthier, more inclusive food system in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. At the heart of this integrated network of food growers, makers, and consumers is Crossroads Farmers Market, where nutrition incentives make healthy food more affordable to more people, and where a consistent demand for fresh fruits and vegetables has helped make local, small-scale sustainable farming more economically viable. Crossroads is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that originated the idea of using private funds to double the value of federal nutrition benefits like SNAP (formerly food stamps), WIC, and senior assistance vouchers so that low-income shoppers can stretch their food budgets to bring the freshest and healthiest produce home to their families.

Crossroads Farmers Market is a lively community gathering space for people of all backgrounds and incomes, held on Wednesdays from 11am-3pm on Anne. St. at University Blvd. East in Takoma Park. We wish everyone could come to the market but we understand that a midweek, midday market poses a challenge for some, so we began a CSA (community supported agriculture) program that brings locally grown fruits and vegetables, handmade products, and other farm-fresh goodies from multiple Crossroads farmers and vendors directly to members.

Each week, members pick up an assortment of seasonal fruits and vegetables bursting with flavor (as well as locally produced eggs or other vendor items) from a neighborhood pickup site of their choosing during the late afternoon or evening. On the day before pickup each week, members receive an e-newsletter detailing that week's items, as well as recipes and cooking tips. This year our CSA, like our market, runs for 33 weeks, from April 18 - November 28.

Members are responsible for showing up at their chosen pick-up site each week to pick up their share of freshly harvested produce and other market goods. You will generally receive 3-6 types of vegetable items and 1-2 types of fruit items, equivalent to one half bushel of produce. We will continue to offer just this one share size, but encourage larger families to consider purchasing two or more shares.

This year we're also offering three add-on options:

- **Meat:** 3-5 cuts of meat from pasture-raised animals delivered once per month
- **Eggs:** 1 dozen eggs from pasture-raised chickens delivered every other week
- **Market treat:** A rotating selection of value-added and other locally produced items from Crossroads vendors, including Alcoba Coffee, Seedy Nutty snack mix, local honey, Toigo Orchards cider, and more. Delivered every other week.

Detailed information regarding pickup is discussed below in Section 3. Variety and quantity may vary as described below in Section 2.

## **B. Growing Practices of Participating Farmers**

CSA members receive items from local farmers and vendors who sell at Crossroads Farmers Market, including [Potomac Vegetable Farms](#), [Full Cellar Farm](#), [Toigo Orchards](#), and [Tuckey's Mountain Grown](#). We prioritize produce from farms that use organic practices and/or low spray orchard methods. For more information about the production practices of Crossroads farmers, please visit their websites and/or ask us. We'd be happy to tell you more.

## **Section 2. Our Shared Commitments**

### **A. Sharing in the Risk of Crop Failure**

We promise to do our best to provide you with a bountiful share each week. The quantity of produce, however, may vary from week to week due to extreme weather, insects, or other production factors despite our farmers' best efforts. By joining our CSA, you are agreeing to share the risk of crop failure with us and other members.

In the unlikely event of a crop failure, our procedure is as follows: We may cover for a crop loss by buying from other Crossroads farmers. This may not be a feasible option for all crops because of cost or widespread failure.

## **Section 3. Picking Up Shares**

You are responsible for picking up your share each week from your chosen pickup site during the specified timeframe. Note that the earlier you pick up your share, the fresher it will be.

The 2018 pickup sites are:

- Crossroads Farmers Market, Anne St. at University Blvd. East, 12-4pm
- Hodges Lane at Holly Ave. 2pm-9pm
- 7900 block of Long Branch Parkway, 2pm-9pm
- 316 Tulip Ave., 2pm-9pm
- Takoma Village Cohousing, 6827 4th St. NW, 2pm-9pm
- 8509 Glenville Rd., 2pm-9pm

You are responsible for observing our pickup site rules, which are as follows:

1. Bring your own bag and leave the box at the site, folded flat.
2. Pick up your share within the timeframe stated. Although we deliver high-quality produce to the site, it will decline quickly if not picked up (and properly stored) in time.
3. Be respectful of our pickup site hosts' property.
4. Check off your name on the list.
5. Follow additional rules posted at your pickup site.

6. Don't pick up the treat add-ons unless you've ordered/paid for them.

If you cannot pick up your share, either arrange for someone else to pick it up for you or notify the CSA coordinator with at least 48 hours notice, and we will donate it to an in-need member of the Crossroads community. If you arrange for someone else to pick it up for you, you are responsible for explaining the pickup location and procedures to your substitute.

If you wish to change your pickup site, you must notify the CSA coordinator with at least one week's notice. Shares that are not retrieved within the pickup timeframe will be donated to a charity or food pantry or donated to the pickup site host.

We encourage you to try everything in your share, but if there is something you know you won't use, you can leave one item behind in the \*new\* swap box and take another item that someone else has left behind. Please limit your swap box use to one item per week.

If a pickup site doesn't have at least 10 members by April 4, 2018, then Crossroads may ask members to switch pickup sites so that each site has at least 10 members.

#### **Section 4. CSA membership prices**

By selling memberships in advance of the growing season, Crossroads Community Food Network provides guaranteed sales to our dedicated group of market farmers and vendors. Prices of the basic share and add-ons are below:

| <b>What</b>  | <b>Details</b>            | <b>Total cost</b> | <b>Notes</b>   |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Basic share  | \$22 per week x 33 weeks  | \$726             | 3-6 vegetable items & 1-2 fruit items  |
| Meat         | \$22 per month x 8 months | \$175             | 3-5 cuts each month, farmer's choice   |
| Dozen eggs   | \$5 per week x 16 weeks   | \$80              | Every other week   |
| Market treat | \$5 per week x 16 weeks   | \$80              | Every other week, rotating selection of food items from Crossroads vendors such as a, a bag of freshly roasted Alcoba coffee, Toigo Orchards' apple cider, and more. |

All payments are non-refundable beyond May 18, 2018 (the fourth week of the season).

#### **Section 5. Communicating with Us**

The best way to communicate with us is by emailing the CSA Coordinator, Liz Whitehurst, at [lwhitehurst@crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org](mailto:lwhitehurst@crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org). Please contact us with any of the following:

changes to your mailing or email address, changes to your pickup site location, problems with your pickup site, or dissatisfaction with your share. We will do our best to respond as soon as possible.

When you sign up for CSA membership, you will be added to an email list so that you can receive a weekly email newsletter during market season that includes information about that week's fruit and vegetable selections, recipe ideas, and other announcements. Please read the weekly newsletter; we depend on being able to communicate important information or news concerning the CSA if necessary.

Although unlikely, Crossroads Community Food Network may change parts of this agreement related to production and distribution of share items; if this happens, you will be contacted via email in advance of any changes to this agreement.

When joining the Crossroads Multi-Farm CSA, you are also acknowledging that you have read and agree to the terms of this agreement.