



2024 CSA Membership Agreement

June 1st, 2024 – May 31st, 2025

Thank you for choosing to support local agriculture and be a special part of the community at [Featherbed Lane Farm](#). We know it is a commitment to become a CSA Member. We appreciate your decision to prioritize healthy seasonal foods as well as local farms and farmers practicing sustainable and responsible agriculture. As your farmers, we are committed to you too.

The CSA Membership Agreement describes the farm's practices, values, and goals. It provides Members with background information on CSA programs and what makes Featherbed Lane Farm unique. It also helps us discuss the details of each CSA Membership, such as how to select the number of Shares and come to a price and payment plan that is right for both you and the farm. Our review of this Agreement is an opportunity to talk through questions you may have and to ensure a great experience for you. It also serves as an ongoing reminder that we encourage open communication. We are available to you throughout the year.

We want you to be very happy with your decision to join our CSA and be a part of this farm and community. We want to provide you with delicious, healthy, and abundant food. We want our farm to be a special place you feel connected to and enjoy.

CSA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

The CSA model was developed to more closely connect people with farming and to support farmers by providing them with secure working-capital early and throughout the year. CSA farms take many shapes and sizes. They tend to be seasonal, often running for roughly 20 weeks, and CSA Shares – the farm produce you take home – are often pre-boxed or based on item limits. It is also increasingly common for CSA Shares to be delivered to off-farm locations.

Featherbed Lane Farm's CSA

Featherbed Lane Farm's CSA is unique. Our CSA is designed to be closer to the original intent of the CSA model – to support our farm via direct and committed sales as well as provide exceptional food for, and build community with, our CSA Members. Our CSA model is also designed to offer more food, week to week and throughout the year, in a more flexible manner.

Featherbed Lane Farm offers a full year CSA. This means you have access to the available products every week of the year, all year round. Our Vegetable Share is free choice, which means you take as much of the available produce as you want for fresh eating each week. We do not pre-box your Share unless you request that it be boxed for you. Instead, you select your own produce each week, taking what you want during CSA Pickup. Limits are only placed on produce if amounts are restricted due to season, yields or for other reasons to ensure all Members have equal access. If you would like additional produce during certain weeks, such as to preserve for winter, it may be available at either no cost or at bulk pricing, pending amounts available and the farm's discretion.

Keeping 'Community' in CSA:

Featherbed Lane Farm's free choice and community-focused CSA features on-farm CSA Pickup. This means Members are regularly at the farm, connecting with this special place, the farmers and other CSA Members throughout the seasons and years. We offer additional opportunities for Members to directly engage with the farm, such as the Discovery Garden, U-Pick harvests of certain flowers, fruits and vegetables, farm walks, horse-drawn wagon and sleigh rides, and other on-farm events. We offer volunteer opportunities for those who want to be more hands-on. We also encourage CSA Members to connect with the farm not only as place to pick up their weekly Share but also as a place to walk, picnic and otherwise enjoy.

Draft Power and Farm Stewardship:

Another distinguishing feature of Featherbed Lane Farm is our work with draft horses. Farming with draft horses requires a different type of planning and a different organization of work compared to farming with a tractor. It can have many ecological benefits when done well. For example, we get our "fuel" for the horses, their hay, from our fields and neighboring fields. The horses are also an important part of the farm's fertility as they contribute to our compost daily.

We appreciate the challenges and benefits that come from our working relationship with the horses. We love working with them. They are an important part of our farm crew, and they help with many of the day-to-day activities on the farm. We have a great deal of respect for their gentle nature, power, and ability to work. As such, we show them our respect by handling them well, keeping them well fed and watered and comfortable, and maintaining their fitness throughout the year with regular activity and space to run.

Our work with draft horses is integral to one of our front-and-center farm goals – to build and maintain healthy soil. We carefully direct our work with the horses in concert with the other soil health practices we use on the farm, such as rotations, cover cropping and the application of compost and mulches, to improve soils for the long term. We intend to turn this farm over someday in even better shape than we found it, to not leave no trace but to leave a good trace.

In addition to our focus on soil health, yields and long-term sustainability, we are focused on stewarding the entire farmscape. This includes the fields, hedgerows, ponds, wetlands and woods – the farm in its entirety. We manage our farmscape for pollinators and beneficial insects, birds and bats, and all the wildlife that call Featherbed Lane Farm home. We want CSA Members and our community to connect with this aspect of the farm. We offer guided walks and tours, such as Spring wildflower walks, in addition to other on-farm events. Members are also able to explore and enjoy this special place on their own and with their friends and family.

Pastured Laying Hens:

Another aspect of the farm's stewardship can be found pecking away in the fields during the growing season, our flock of laying hens. Our hens are rotationally grazed from mid-March through mid-November. In their rotating paddocks, they eat fresh grasses and forbs as well as insects and other critters. This is in addition to a daily ration of Non-GMO feed. This makes for very nutritious eggs, happy hens, and healthy pasture as their droppings are an excellent natural fertilizer. During the winter months, when the hens live in a well-bedded and sunny

greenhouse, they receive scratch grains and vegetables to supplement their feed. All their bedding, come March, is added to the farm's compost pile before being spread to build soils in the vegetable fields. A lot of work goes into caring for free range hens, but the fields benefit from them, and Members do too – our hens provide us with nutritious eggs all year long.

Risk and Reward:

A central feature of the CSA model is the up-front commitment made by CSA

Members. This is an essential part of how the model benefits a farmer. At a time when many of the year's expenses are due, such as seeds for the season to come, CSA Members provide farmers with working capital. Each Member's commitment also provides the farmer with security as they have joined the farm and agreed to make any and all remaining payments for the full term. As a CSA Member at Featherbed Lane Farm, your impact is significant and positive.

Another core feature of the commitment made by CSA Members is they share in the risks of farming. CSA Members share in their farm's risks because they have made a payment in full, or agreed to complete all remaining payments, in advance of the season. Difficult weather conditions, pest pressures and other factors can affect even the most experienced growers such that yields are reduced or even whole crops lost. If these conditions arise, CSA members may receive less of, or even none of, certain produce. As a CSA Member, you agree to share in these possible risks. This also means you are supporting your farm and helping your farmers overcome some of the most difficult challenges inherent to farming.

On the flip side of the risks are the rewards that come with CSA Membership. When the farm's yields are abundant, CSA Members benefit from the abundance. This is particularly true for the free choice model at Featherbed Lane Farm. When yields are plentiful, CSA Members receive full access to the bounty. An estimate of the expected types of produce available throughout the year can be found in the *Produce Calendar*.

As your CSA farmers, we are committed to you. We will do our best to provide you with abundant and nutritious foods all year and we commit to providing all the other benefits that come with your Membership. We hope you will want to remain as a CSA Member for many years to come too. With your continued support and input, we can tailor the Share to provide you with the food you want, in the amounts you want and throughout as much of the year as possible. We can also continue to evolve the other benefits of CSA Membership such that you enjoy this farm even more as a direct result of being an active part of it over time.

Access to the Farm for Members:

The farm is open for CSA Members to visit year-round, from sunrise to sunset, on Mondays through Saturdays. When you're here, you can take walks through the woods and fields, have a picnic, and in other ways enjoy this beautiful place. We especially encourage visits with children (with proper supervision, of course!). At this time, most children in the Northeast are many generations removed from agriculture. We feel farms offer them an incredible opportunity to interact with and connect to the world, to understand where their food comes from, to learn about the beauty and the hard work of farming, and to spend positive time outside. The farm is a wonderful place for friends and family time.

Farm Rules:

➤ **CSA Pick-Up Times:**

- **CSA Pickup is held at the farm every Saturday, from 9am-1pm.** This is the only time when you pack your own free choice Share. However, if you are unable make the regularly scheduled Pickup, you have options (*See next bullet*).
- **If you cannot make the regularly scheduled CSA Pickup:**
 - You can gift your Share to someone who will come to the farm in your place.
 - You can ask someone to get your Share for you and bring it to you.
 - You can ask the farmers to box your Share by emailing the box request email any time during the week before 9am on Saturday. In your email, you will indicate if you would like to pick up your boxed Share on Saturday afternoon (any time after 2pm) or on the following Monday (any time after 12pm).
 - You can take extra produce one week then skip the following week (or even weeks). For this option, please first check with the CSA Manager to note that you are taking extra and to see if there are any limits.
- If the Pickup schedule is changed, due to a holiday or for other reasons as determined by the farm, you will receive advanced notice.

➤ **Honor System Pick-Up:**

- Ours is a free choice CSA. Unless there is a stated limit on produce, you can take as much as you want to eat *for the week* based on the number of Shares you purchased.
- We do not monitor what you take for your weekly Share. We trust CSA Members to take only the food for which they paid. For times when Members would like to take extra vegetables, to share with others, we can work out a special arrangement.

➤ **Farm Visits:**

- The farm is open for Members to visit year-round, from sunrise to sunset, on any day but Sunday. If Sunday is the only day that works for your visit, or if you have a special circumstance, please contact us. We will try to accommodate if possible.
- Members are required to inform the farm, via email or text, in advance of all visits during times other than the regularly scheduled CSA Pickup. This helps us know who is at that farm and when. It is generally important for us to know this information, but it is particularly important in case of an emergency.

➤ **Respectful Behavior:**

- Please always be respectful of the farm, farm animals, the forests and fields, the buildings and all else that is part of this farmscape. Please treat this place as you would treat something you care for and for which you are responsible.
- No smoking or vaping on the farm.
- No drinking alcohol on the farm, unless there is a special event hosted by the farm that allows for it. If so, please drink responsibly and only in designated areas.
- No fires on the farm, unless there is a special event hosted by the farm. In this case, fires can only be started and managed by farmers or those who are specifically designated by the farmers.

➤ **Supervision of Children:**

- **Children must ALWAYS be accompanied by a parent or adult caregiver. Parents and caregivers are responsible for supervising their children.** This is for the children's safety and that of all Members, farmers, and others.

➤ **Safety on a Working Farm:**

- While the farm is open to Members on most days of the week, it is a working farm. Members are responsible for maintaining a safe distance from all animals, from moving, sharp and otherwise dangerous equipment or tools, and from other farm risks. **Members are responsible for their safety, their children's safety, and the safety of their guests while on the farm.**
- Please do not pick up or play with any tools or other farm implements.
- Barns and other buildings on the farm, including greenhouses, are working structures. They are not for playing in, on or around.
- If you are unsure about a situation, a place on the farm you would like to go, or an activity on the farm you would like to do, please contact us beforehand.

➤ **Electric Fencing:**

- We use electric fencing. Assume all fences are electric and do not touch them.

➤ **Farm Animals:**

- Maintain a safe and respectful distance from all farm animals to avoid accidents or making the animals nervous. There will be on-farm events and other opportunities that allow for fun and safe interaction with the animals.
- If you would like to visit with any livestock, you must always get prior approval.
- **Please DO NOT FEED any animals on the farm.**

➤ **Farmhouse:**

- We love having CSA Members on the farm. We also appreciate having personal places on the farm. Please ask before entering the farmhouse.

➤ **Farm Ponds:**

- The farm ponds are beautiful places to watch for Kingfishers, Great Blue Herons, other birds and wildlife. Swimming in the ponds is NOT allowed. If you would like to use the canoe, or enjoy the pond in some other way, you must contact us in advance to discuss your plans and get approval.

➤ **Farm Conditions and the Weather:**

- Dress appropriately for your farm visits, preparing for the heat, cold, rain, ice, mud and any other conditions you may encounter on the farm. If you aren't sure about the right clothing or gear to wear for your visits, please contact us.
- Weather can change quickly. Please be mindful of the forecasts and take time to learn about safe behavior in the event of a storm or other unexpected conditions.

➤ **Property Boundaries:**

- Be respectful of our neighbors and do not cross onto their property without their permission. Please contact us to discuss the property boundaries and the areas to which you have access before exploring. Members will abide by all posted signs.

➤ **Poison Ivy, Wasps and Other "Wild" Risks:**

- There is poison ivy on the farm, wasps and other wild, nature-based risks. Members are responsible for the safety of themselves, their children and guests while on the farm. If you are not familiar with the risks or have questions, please ask us.

➤ **Pets**

- **Dogs, cats and any other pets should NOT be brought onto the farm, unless they are certified service animals.** If you have a special request to bring your pet to the farm, please contact us in advance.

CSA Membership Benefits Package:

CSA Membership at Featherbed Lane Farm includes many benefits:

- **On-Farm Events** – We periodically host on-farm events including winter sleigh rides, wagon rides to harvest pumpkins, farm yoga, and more.
- **U-Pick Harvests** – Certain crops, such as cherry tomatoes, flowers and snap peas, are periodically available for CSA Members to U-Pick. These U-Pick harvests are usually offered to Members at no additional cost or at a discounted rate. Members will only harvest from the designated plants for U-Pick.
- **Discovery Garden** – There is a Discovery Garden on the farm. This is a place for all Members – adults and children. There are flowers for pollinators as well as for Members to cut and bring home, herbs and other U-Pick plants for your Share, small walking paths, gourd and bean huts, and other secrets to explore, enjoy and discover.
- **Making the Most of your Share** – We provide recipes, cooking ideas and nutritional facts, connect Members with resources for preserving and preparing foods, and in other ways help you enjoy your Share and make the most of it. For those vegetables that go unused in your fridge, as well as any other food products that have gone by, we encourage Members to bring them to the farm to incorporate into our farm's composting system.
- **Access to the Farm** – The farm is open to CSA Members every day of the week except Sundays. You can visit the farm to picnic in a field, take a walk in the woods to the pond, and more. If you like being hands-on, you can also volunteer on the farm.
- **Access to Additional Local Products** – We regularly collaborate with nearby farms and others in the community to offer additional products for sale to CSA Members, such as baked goods, honey, maple syrup, meats, mushrooms, yogurts and other products from local farms and business owners.
- **Being a Part of the Community** – As a CSA Member, you are an important part of this farm and community. At the farm, you can engage with others who share an affinity for wholesome foods and sustainable agriculture. The weekly on-farm Pickup, newsletter, social media updates, and on-farm events help to keep us connected.

Prices and Paying Farmers Fairly:

We are dedicated to compensating farmers fairly for their hard work. Earning a livable income from farming is a significant challenge. This is especially true when accounting for and respecting wider interests. We strive to balance the multitude of true costs associated with producing food well, including supporting our farmers, humanely caring for our livestock, stewarding the farm's soils and waters and wildlife habitats, as well as undertaking efforts to make our food affordable and accessible. **We set our prices for produce and eggs, while offering special pricing and payment arrangements, with these ecological and social considerations in mind.**

CSA MEMBERSHIP AND SHARE OPTIONS

Share Options:

Vegetable Share: Adult Vegetable Shares are priced according to the number of adults per household, with a discount for families and housemates. Children's Shares are priced according to age. Children 16 years and older are priced as adults. Children under 6 years old are free.

Vegetable Shares Adult	Total Per Year	Total Per Month	Family Discount
Individual	\$1,650	\$137.50	NA
Household - 2	\$3,150	\$262.50	\$150
Household - 3	\$4,500	\$375.00	\$450
Household - 4	\$5,800	\$483.33	\$800

Vegetable Shares Children	Total Per Month	Total Per Year
0 thru 5 years old	\$0	\$0
6 thru 10 years old	\$30	\$360
11 thru 15 years old	\$50	\$600

Please select your Vegetable Share based on who – you, your family and/or your housemates – will be eating the farm's produce each week. If only one adult is eating the farm's produce each week, you would purchase a 1-Adult Share. If you are taking produce for more than one adult to eat during the week, then you would purchase a 2-Adult Share (or 3-Adult, etc.). The same process applies for children. We are happy to assist if you have questions.

Egg Share: Egg Shares work on a credit system. To buy eggs, you make a down payment to establish a credit. You then draw against that credit when you take eggs during Pickup, replenishing your credit whenever it gets low. Egg credits do not carry beyond CSA Membership. Eggs are priced at \$6/dozen.

Preferred Payment Plans:

These are the three preferred payment plans, though additional options are available:

1. **Pay in full** (*up to a 5% discount*)
2. **50% down payment with two 25% installments** (*up to a 2.5% discount*)*
3. **25% down payment with three 25% installments** (*no discount*)*

**Installment payments will be made by the first Pickup of each month when payments are due.*

Whichever payment plan you choose, you are committing to making your full and on-time payments for the entire year. We order seeds and make significant investments early in the season to prepare for each Share. We are making a full year commitment to you. Likewise, you are making a full year commitment to us, including completing all payments in full.

Sliding Scale Pricing and Additional Payment Options:

We want everyone to have access to nutritious food. If you can't afford the full value of a Share, but you want to become a CSA Member, we offer a sliding scale on our prices. We will work with you to find a mutually agreeable price. As needed, we can also discuss alternative payment plans that might better suit your needs. Your price and payment plan will be discussed and agreed upon when you sign up for your Membership.

Social Impact – Supporter Shares:

The farm is committed to increasing people's access to fresh, nutritious, delicious food. We offer a sliding scale on our prices for Members who are committed to getting their food at Featherbed Lane Farm but who can't afford the full value of a Share. We also make weekly donations of farm fresh produce to a local food pantry, the Franklin Community Center Food Pantry, and periodic donations to other food pantries or charitable events.

Over the past years, sliding scale pricing discounts have averaged nearly \$2,000 and food pantry donations have averaged nearly \$7,000. Looking ahead, we will continue with these programs. We will also explore new ways to make the farm and fresh food more accessible to folks for whom transportation, pricing or other considerations are barriers.

We aspire to raise \$9,000 through the Supporter Share program. Supporter Share contributions directly support the farm's sliding scale pricing and weekly food pantry donations. CSA Members can contribute during Membership renewal and sign-up. CSA Members and others in the community who would like to contribute can also do so at any time during the year. As the farm is not a nonprofit, contributions are not tax deductible. However, we are transparent in our practices, and anyone can see for themselves how we align values with practices. You can be assured your contributions are doing good for the land and the community.

Changes to Payment Plan:

The payment plan remains in place for the duration of the "CSA Year" or until your payments are completed. Adjustments to your payment plan can only be made with mutual consent between you and the farm. Should you need to adjust your payment plan, you will contact the farm to schedule a meeting before making any changes and with as much advanced notice as possible. We will work together to develop and agree upon a new payment plan that works for you and the farm.

If your payment is late, we may talk with you during Pickup. You may also receive an email asking you to make your payment by or before the next scheduled Pickup. If your payments due are not received by the CSA Pickup following your initial late payment notice, and if a mutually agreed upon alternative was not made, you may receive an email indicating your Share is on hold. You may not be able to pick up your Share until your payments have been submitted. If there are extenuating circumstances regarding your late payments, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss and make alternative arrangements. We will always try to work with you.

Cancellation and Completing Payments:

We very much hope this will not happen but, if you become unable or unwilling to continue your Membership during the "CSA Year", please contact us as soon as possible to discuss cancellation. **As the farm makes significant upfront investments to produce your food for the year, we do not provide refunds. Further, If you have not completed your payments, you will fulfill this Agreement and make all remaining payments. An alternative option is to have someone assume your Membership, make any remaining payments, and pick up a Share in your place.** Finding someone to assume your Share is a Member's responsibility, though the farm will make reasonable efforts to assist with the transition.

Communication:

We encourage proactive communication with all CSA Members. We believe open communication is fundamental to good relationships, and we hope Membership will be a wonderful experience for you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at your earliest convenience. We truly appreciate your Membership and support of the farm. We want to hear from you, and we want to support you too.

Should there be any changes to the CSA Membership, such as a change in the CSA Pickup schedule or an update to the farm's rules, we will contact you in advance to provide notice and an explanation. We may solicit input on important decisions impacting the farm and CSA. We also look to CSA Members to provide suggestions about how we can make improvements through our annual survey and at any time during the year. While it may not be possible to address every suggestion, we always take note of Member suggestions, and we adjust over time in ways that reflect Members' preferences and engagement with the farm.

The Years Ahead:

Featherbed Lane Farm was permanently conserved for agricultural purposes in 2019. The conservation easement we placed on the property ensures it will remain forever farmland. The easement also permanently prioritizes the sale of the farm to farmers at a price based on local farm economics not real estate development value. In other words, this farm will remain affordable to farmers, and for farmers, in perpetuity. While we are the current owners, we believe we are the farms as much as the farm is ours. We are mindful of our relationship to this place, always striving to care for it well until we turn it over to another farmer or farmers in the future. Our efforts to pay farmers fairly, build healthy soils, support wildlife habitats, make food more accessible, and be a community-centered farm are entwined with this long view.

The 2024 CSA marks the 8th year of CSA Memberships at Featherbed Lane Farm! We are excited to continue offering a year-round supply of healthy, delicious and sustainably grown foods to CSA Members. We are dedicated to sustaining and continually improving the farm so it can produce the highest quality foods and nourish the land and people. **We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this special place and to share it with you.**

CSA Members make this farm possible, sustain it and renew it from year to year, help co-create it day in and day out. Through your CSA Membership, you are making a commitment to yourself, to the farmers and to the farm. We greatly appreciate that. We always strive to do right by it. We are making a commitment to you too.

You do NOT need to fill out the following form on your own.

We will work with you to complete the Payment Plan and Signature Form of the CSA Membership Agreement.

2024 CSA Membership Agreement

Payment Plan and Signature Form

June 1st, 2024 – May 31st, 2025

Vegetable Share:

Type	Number	Monthly	Annual	Multiple Shares Discount	Renewing Member Discount	Base Price

Payment Plan:

Additional Discounts and Sliding Scale Details:

- Preferred Payment Plan Discount:
- Early Sign-up Discount (*Jan, Feb*):
- Total Additional Discounts (% / \$):
- Vegetable Share Sub-Total (*with discounts included*):
- Sliding Scale Value (*if applicable*):

Vegetable Share Total:

Egg Share Total:

Supporter Share: ***You can return discounts and contribute to the Supporter Share** to support the farm in making weekly donations of fresh produce to local food pantries and offering a sliding scale to folks for whom the full price of a CSA Membership is prohibitive. **We are seeking to raise \$9,000 in 2024.***

- ☐ **I would like to return the value of my discounts to the farm**
- ☐ **I would like to contribute \$100 or \$_____**

GRAND TOTAL:

Payment Method and Schedule:

- Payments will be made by the dates agreed to below
- Payments will be made by the first Pickup of each month during which they are due
- Payments will be made in cash or by check payable to: Featherbed Lane Farm, LLC

Down Payment:

Remaining Payment:

Remaining Payment Schedule:

2024 CSA Membership Agreement

Payment Plan and Signature Form

We have reviewed all of the CSA Membership Agreement. We agree to fulfill all the commitments we are making to one another.

CSA Member:

(By including my name here, I affirm it is equivalent to my signature)

Date:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

Farm Owner and Manager:

(By including my name here, I affirm it is equivalent to my signature)

Date:

Name:

FARM CONTACT INFORMATION

Tim Biello
35 Featherbed Lane
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Cell Phone: (518) 207-7224
tim@featherbedlanefarm.com
www.featherbedlanefarm.com

