



Siena Farms' 2012 Vegetable Farm Share

F.A.Q.'s

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: Does Siena Farms grow its produce organically? **A:** Forever and always. We've chosen to forgo the USDA's organic certification process in recent years, and invite you to trust us, your farmers, that our produce is grown using ecologically and socially responsible methods. Farmer Chris promises his customers that his six-year-old daughter Siena provides all the motivation he needs to follow organic farming practices.

Q: What are the actual contents of our weekly Vegetable Farm Share?

A: Your weekly Vegetable Farm Share will contain a balanced selection of the best vegetables our fields have to offer at any given point during the season. Following are the actual contents of our weekly CSA boxes from three different moments in the 2011 season to give you a sense of quantity and variety per Share, per week... **Early Summer:** 1 lb rainbow summer squash, 1 lb Persian cucumbers, 2 lbs fresh Fava beans, 1 head green oakleaf lettuce, 1 head green Boston lettuce, ½ lb baby arugula, 1 bunch rainbow beets, 1 bunch broccoli raab, 1 bunch cilantro, 1 bunch scallions, 1 bunch French breakfast radishes, 1 lb topped rainbow carrots; **Late Summer:** 1 lb beefsteak tomato, 1 lb heirloom tomato, 2 each plum tomatoes, 1 yellow onion, 2 lbs fresh-dug rainbow potatoes (gold, blue, white, pink), 1 lb baby Cousa summer squash, 1 lb black bell eggplant, 1 lb Fairytale mini-eggplant, 1 bunch rainbow chard, ½ lb Hungarian Hot Wax peppers, 3 ripe bell peppers, ½ lb bag mesclun, 1 bunch basil, 1 bulb stiffneck garlic; **Autumn:** 5 lbs butternut squash, ½ lb mesclun, 1 lb Bolero carrots, 1 lb watermelon radishes, 1 lb baby bac choi, ½ lb jalapeno peppers, 1 bulb celeriac, 2 lbs fingerling potatoes, 1 bunch Italian parsley, 2 leeks, 2 lbs parsnips, 1 bunch Tuscan kale.

Q: Will the weekly Vegetable Share have too much or too little produce for my family's vegetable needs?

A: Your weekly box is a "half-bushel" produce box, measuring 9"x9"x13", filled to the brim with a sampling of 10-to-15 different varieties of our vegetables on any given week (see above). Households with modest vegetable needs are welcome to share a CSA membership with a friend or neighbor; households with more substantial vegetable appetites are welcome to purchase multiple CSA memberships.

Q: What happens when I'm out of town or for some reason can't pick up my Farm Share on a given week?

A: We encourage you to send a friend or neighbor to pick up your Farm Share for you; they can simply check your name off on our list, take a box, and enjoy!

Q: If I forget to pick up my Farm Share, will it be available to pick up the following day? **A:** At all of our locations it is very important that boxes don't sit around between pick up days, so Farm Shares can only be picked up during the designated pickup window on the designated day. Leftover boxes are donated to local charities, sent home with staff, used up in restaurant kitchens, etc., but never wasted!

Q: Can I switch my pickup location or day mid-season? **A:** Yes, if it's a one-time switch for the remainder of the season, we are likely to be able to accommodate it, but we have learned that we are not able to accommodate temporary switches.

Q: Are Siena Farms CSA memberships refundable or transferable? **A:** They are not refundable, but they are transferable. That is, if you realize at some point after purchasing a membership that it's not going to work for you, we will not be able to refund your purchase, as we will already have put your investment to good work on the farm. Instead, you'd be welcome to find a friend or neighbor to take over the membership for you, and if we can help you with contacts off our waiting list we will certainly do so.

Q: What happens to the Farm Share if Siena Farms experiences a natural disaster such as flooding or hail during the season that wipes out most or all of the crops? Someday, that could happen, as we saw it

happen to many farms in Vermont in 2011 after Hurricane Irene. One of the truly progressive aspects of the CSA model is that the customers share the risks and the rewards of the growing season with their farmer. Meantime, we'll focus relentlessly on the rewards!

Q: For Monday pickups that fall on national holidays (July 4th, Labor Day, Columbus Day), do the Farm Shares get delivered / picked up on Tuesdays instead? A: Yes, with the same pickup window as the normal Monday hours at the respective locations.

Q: If I would like to sign up for an Extended Season Farm Share for a Holiday pickup at Sofra, Siena Farms, or Siena Farms South End, but want to pick up at a different location during the summer and fall, is that possible? A: Yes, no problem. Just call Farmer Chris at (978) 261-5365 at the number below to arrange this over the phone.

Q: Does Siena Farms have any work requirements or Pick-Your-Own options? A: Not currently: we take care of all the planting, growing and harvesting – you'll have enough work cut out for yourself in the kitchen! CSA Members are always welcome, however, to walk the fields and visit the farm animals on Mondays and Thursdays during our CSA pick-up hours, 8am to 8pm.

Q: Are the recipes that get emailed to CSA members each week from the chefs at Oleana and Sofra accessible to home cooks preparing food for their families? A: Some of the recipes are inspiring in their simplicity and others are challenging in their complexity. They all will focus on the contents of a given week's Farm Share, and aim to help you enjoy the beautiful experience of seasonal eating in New England.

Q: How does the value of our CSA compare to buying Siena Farms produce retail, at our farmers' market stand or Farm Store? A: The average weekly cost of your Vegetable Farm Share during the season ranges from roughly \$35-\$40 per week depending on the duration of your Farm Share and the timing of your purchase; the average weekly value of your CSA box, based on our retail market prices, will be well over \$40 per week, often close to \$50 per week. All of our regular customers will recognize that Siena Farms is on the high end of the price spectrum and quality spectrum of local produce, an achievement we're proud of and will continue to strive for. That said, our CSA membership is the most economical way to access Siena Farms' produce, and is also the heart of our business, enabling us to invest in our soils, our infrastructure, our harvest and our markets season after season.

Other questions? Please visit www.sienafarms.com or call (978) 261-5365 and ask for Farmer Chris!