Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

CSA is a collaboration between the local community and the farmer. The community members support the farm directly for an entire season and in return receive a share in the weekly harvest. This partnership increases community involvement in food production and in the health of the local economy and environment.

CSA at the UCSC Farm and Garden

For more than 47 years, people from around the world have come to the UCSC Farm and Garden each spring to take part in the six-month Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture, offered through the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS). Under the direction of the CASFS teaching staff, apprentices have an immersion learning experience in cultivation and care of organic crops using ecological methods. They are intimately involved in the whole season’s work, planting, cultivating, and harvesting crops from the six acres of tractor-worked fields and the two large gardens – the Farm Garden and the Alan Chadwick Garden. Apprentices harvest for the CSA and the CASFS market cart held seasonally from June through October. The apprenticeship program of study covers agricultural and horticultural topics including soils and soil fertility management, plant propagation, composting, hand-scale and tractor tillage, irrigation, pest management and crop culture, as well as food justice/sustainable food systems.

The CSA program was piloted in 1995, and grew quickly to the current 130-member capacity. The CSA serves the campus and Santa Cruz community. Ten percent of shares are reserved for low-income households, and we donate thousands of pounds of produce each year to community organizations serving populations in need.

Our Vision is to –

❖ establish a partnership between the local community and apprenticing organic growers
❖ demonstrate a viable model of sound economics for small-scale farming and regional food systems
❖ foster ecological stewardship of the land
❖ provide the community with high quality, nutritious produce in season

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Cover photograph by Britt Retzlaff, 2011 Apprentice
The CSA Season: What to Expect
Our planned start date is Tuesday, June 2nd, with the season extending through Friday, October 30th, weather permitting.

What's in the box?
Each week's box will contain a diversity of crops (9-13 items), balanced amongst greens, root crops, summer vegetables, fresh herbs, and tree fruit and berries (see page 4 for our crop list). We pack a one-size box, which feeds two to four adults for a week, depending on cooking habits. Members can sign up to share a box with a co-member. Usually, friends agree to share a membership and submit their payment together, but we can also help to facilitate shared boxes.

Recipes and Newsletters
Members receive a weekly newsletter (email and/or print) with produce recipes and farm news! Additionally, we offer a recipe archive on our website.

Friends of the Farm and Garden Membership
CSA members receive a complimentary membership to the Friends of the Farm and Garden (FF&G) for the duration of the CSA season. FF&G membership benefits include a 10% discount on plants and merchandise at our biannual plant sales and discounts to FF&G-sponsored workshops.

Cost and Season Dates
Full season $560 (planned 22 weeks, June 2 - Oct. 30)
Late season $280 (last half of season, 11 weeks Aug 18 - Oct. 30)
For payment plan, see page 5. (Please note that no refunds are available.)

Low-income Shares
Ten percent of our shares are reserved each year for low-income households at the price of $280 per share. We also accept SNAP/EBT benefits for CSA payment. To apply, contact farmcsa@ucsc.edu to have an application mailed to you. To help support low-income shares, please see information on page 6.

Volunteer Opportunities
Volunteers are welcome to join the apprentice crew in harvesting on Tuesday and Friday mornings, by arrangement. Volunteers are also welcome to join us in gleaning for the Second Harvest food pantry held on the UCSC campus the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month (June through October.) Gleaning starts early, from 7:30–8:30 a.m. Call 459-3240 or email farmcsa@ucsc.edu if you would like to get involved.

Pick-up Days and Locations
Crops are harvested the same day they are packed! Members pick up their boxes in the afternoons on either Tuesdays or Fridays (same day of the week for duration of season, with option to change permanently or temporarily with advance notice). Members bring their own carry bags to the farm or pick-up site, and transfer the contents of their box to take home.
Shares not picked up at the end of the day will be donated to local food access organizations. Map and directions to the farm will be sent before the season begins, along with a temporary parking permit for pick up on the farm.

Pick-up Day Location
Tuesdays CASFS Farm or Westside location (to be determined)
Fridays CASFS Farm or Market Cart (corner of Bay & High Streets)

Pick-up Times Location
12:00 noon to 6:30 pm On-farm
2:30 pm to 6 pm Market Cart
2:30 pm to 5:30 pm Westside location

The CENTER for AGROECOLOGY & SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
The UCSC Farm's CSA program is part of the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS), a research, education, and public service program dedicated to increasing ecological sustainability and social justice in the food and agriculture system.
The CASFS mission is to research, develop, and advance sustainable food and agricultural systems that are environmentally sound, economically viable, socially responsible, non-exploitative, and that serve as a foundation for future generations. Center staff conduct research on both agronomic and social aspects of sustainable agriculture, as well as offer an extensive public education program, including tours of the UCSC Farm and a series of public workshops on gardening techniques and other topics (see page 7).

How to Contact Us
Mailing Address: CASFS / UCSC Farm
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Attn: CSA
Phone Number: 831.459-3240 or 831.459-4661 | Email: farmcsa@ucsc.edu
Web page: http://casfs.ucsc.edu/community/produce-sales/csa.html
Location: UCSC Farm and Garden
Detailed instructions on parking will be sent with membership confirmation.
Produce Availability Guide
CSA is a unique opportunity to experience local, seasonal eating and deepen your connections amongst food, land and community.

We strive to make boxes diverse and bountiful throughout the season. Weekly newsletters will keep you in touch with the field and growing conditions as the summer goes on.

Pick-Your-Own Herb & Flower Garden
CSA members are invited to cut flowers and herbs from the garden at the Farm pick-up site.

2015 CSA Shares Pledge Form
In becoming a member of the UCSC Farm CSA, I understand the following:

- I am making a financial commitment for the 2015 farm season. As the designated primary shareholder, I understand that my share payment is non-refundable;
- I recognize that due to the inherent risks of farming, there are no guarantees on the exact amount of produce that I will receive;
- that my share comes from an educational farm and that apprenticing farmers are producing my food; and
- I understand and accept this commitment and assume responsibility to contact the staff if there are any questions or concerns.

Please note that in order to complete your reservation for the 2015 CSA Program, you must submit payment with a signed pledge form to the address listed below.

Signature ______________________ Date __________________
Primary Shareholder ______________________________ Co-Shareholder ______________________________
Primary Address ____________________________________________ Zip ______________
Cell # ______________________________ Work # ______________________________
Primary Email ______________________________ Co-share Email ______________________________
Signature ______________________ Date __________________
Shareholder ______________________________ Shareholder ______________________________
Address ____________________________________________ Zip ______________
Cell # ______________________________ Work # ______________________________
Email ____________________________________________ Email ____________________________________________

Payment options

**FULL SEASON:**
- [ ] payment in full: $560
  - [ ] Two checks: $280
    - today’s date and post-dated June 1
  - [ ] Four checks: $140
    - today’s date and post-dated July 1
    - post-dated Aug 1

**LATE SEASON:**
- [ ] payment in full: $280
  - [ ] Two checks: $140
    - today’s date and post-dated Sept 1

Payment by Check only payable to “UC Regents”

Send with this pledge form to:
CASFS / UCSC Farm
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Attn: CSA

Pick-up site
- [ ] At the Farm (noon-6:30 p.m.)
  - [ ] Tuesdays
  - [ ] Fridays
- [ ] Bay & High – Friday only (2:30-6:00 pm)
- [ ] Westside – Tuesday only (2:30-5:30 pm); Location to be determined

Office Use Only: [ ] Payment enclosed
Check payment amount: __________ Date received: __________
**Pick-Your-Own Herbs & Flowers**

To complement your share, you are welcome to pick herbs and flowers throughout the season in the CSA garden adjacent to the CSA Barn on the Farm.

**The Exchange Basket**

On pick-up days, take advantage of our exchange basket and frequent offerings of farm bounty.

**Comments from our CSA Members:**

We enjoyed the rich flavor of CSA produce versus store bought. It was so rewarding to visit the farm with the kids and explain what we are a part of and how CSA upholds the values of our family.

The balance of produce has been very nice this year. We are looking forward to the winter box!

We love the farm experience and having fresh fruit and veggies every week, we hope to continue to be a part of this every year. Thank you!

I appreciated the half season share and the two-part payment option, as it’s difficult to put all the money up at once. I look forward to my winter box. Thank you!

It has been fun to bring my toddler to the farm each week to gather our vegetables. This was our first CSA experience and it has been fun to get veggies we wouldn’t have usually purchased on our own. I now love to eat roasted beets. They are sooo good.

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**2015 Spring Calendar of Events**

CSA membership includes complimentary membership of the Friends of the Farm and Garden (FF&G) during the CSA season and are eligible for discounts on workshop fees (typical pre-registration cost is $30 general public; $20 FF&G members). Pre-register online or by check (send check, payable to “UC Regents” to:

CASFS | 1156 High St. | Santa Cruz, CA 95064 | Attn: Workshop

Please include workshop name/date and contact info). Full refunds available if event is cancelled due to inclement weather. A current calendar is posted on the CASFS website’s home page, casfs.ucsc.edu

**Gopher Control in the Home Garden & Small Farm**

*Saturday, March 7, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm*

Louise Cain Gatehouse, UCSC Farm

Learn how to control gophers in the home garden, landscape, and on the small farm using non-toxic techniques that focus on exclusion and trapping. Taught by Thomas Wittman, founder and owner of Gophers Ltd., an expert on vertebrate pest control. General admission: $30 / $40 (at gate); FF&G members: $20 / $30; $5 current UCSC students (student ID required).

Register at: [http://gopher2015.bpt.me](http://gopher2015.bpt.me) or by check (see above)

**Cowell Ranch Barn Raising Party**

*Saturday, March 21, 1:30 – 4:30 pm*

Hay Barn site, UCSC

It’s a Barn Raising! Join us to watch the walls of the Cowell Ranch Hay Barn go up! The Hay Barn will be the new “front door” of the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems, offering a place for people to gather, celebrate and learn.

Schedule of events:

1:30 p.m. View Historic Construction in Action
2:30 p.m. Welcome and Remarks
3:00 p.m. Pie and Ice Cream Social
4:00 p.m. Long Life Ceremony

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**Make a donation to support low-income shares!**

We gratefully accept donations to support low-income shares. Donations are tax deductible.

If you would like to donate, please include with your pledge form and payment, indicating the amount below:

- $25
- $50
- $100
- $280 (a full, low-income share)

I would like to donate $_______ to a low-income share.

[Call to action]

We gratefully accept donations to support low-income shares. Donations are tax deductible.

If you would like to donate, please include with your pledge form and payment, indicating the amount below:

- $25
- $50
- $100
- $280 (a full, low-income share)

I would like to donate $_______ to a low-income share.
All About Berries—Blueberries & Cane Fruit for the Home Garden & Small Farm
Saturday, April 4, 9:30 am–12:30 pm
Louise Cain Gatehouse, UCSC Farm

Learn the basics of selecting, planting, and caring for blueberries and cane berries (blackberries, raspberries, etc.) in the home garden and small farm from Matthew Sutton of Orchard Keepers. General admission: $30 / $40; FFG members: $20 / $30; Limited income: $15 / $25; Current UCSC students: $5 (student ID required).
Register online: http://berries.bpt.me or by check (see page 7).

UCSC Farm & Garden Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, May 2, 10 am–3 pm and Sunday, May 3, 10 am–2 pm
Barn Theater Parking Lot, corner of Bay & High Streets, UCSC

Choose from the largest organically grown selection of vegetables, annual flowers, and perennials available in the Monterey Bay region. Please note: Friends of the Farm & Garden members are welcome to a "members' hour" from 9–10 am on Saturday, May 2.

A Garden of Poetry and Music
Saturday, June 6, 12 noon – 2 pm
Alan Chadwick Garden, UCSC

Join us for this free event in the historic Alan Chadwick Garden and enjoy the talents of our region’s poets and musicians. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the Summer Solstice! Free admission, snacks provided. Questions? Email casfs@ucsc.edu

Look for these summer workshops and events at casfs.ucsc.edu:

Summer Pruning; Selecting and Planting Garlic; Farm to Fork Benefit Dinner; Fall Harvest Festival

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.
–Margaret Mead