

PICKING UP YOUR SHARE 2020 – A SHAREHOLDER’S GUIDE TO FERNBROOK FARMS CSA!

This is a summary of how the CSA works – how and when we distribute the food and how the u-pick crops work.
Please keep it handy as a guide to your CSA this year!

We are at 142 Bordentown – Georgetown Road a.k.a Route 545. The farm is in Chesterfield (although we have a Bordentown P.O. Box). The CSA entrance is right at the intersection of 545 and White Pine Road which is about 2.5 miles south of Route 206. Park by the split-rail fence. Overflow parking is in the lot on the other side of the Inn, about 100 yards from the farm shop. PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE LAWN OF THE INN. Instead use the overflow lot mentioned above which has plenty of space and is a short walk to the shop! **** We ask that everyone enter the farm at the entrance at White Pine Road and Exit by driving past the Inn and out the middle driveway. We’ll have signs to help you! ****

Each Week The Farm Shop Is Open:

Saturday 8:00AM – 4:00 PM

Tuesday 10:00AM – 7:00PM

Thursday 12:00PM – 7:00PM

Please sign up for a time slot to come to the farm shop to pick up your share. An active link can be found in our weekly email. (Ten Weeks Shares only have to sign up on the weeks that they choose to come). You can pick-up your share once a week on either Saturday, Tuesday or Thursday. Please note that the week “starts” on Saturday. So for week 1, you can come either Saturday, May 30th; Tuesday, June 2nd OR Thursday, June 4th. Week 2 starts on Saturday, June 6th and so on. If you are splitting a share, please make arrangements with the other family so you each pick up a full share every other week. We have enough room and parking to accommodate everyone. When you get to the farm shop, please check in with us and we will mark on our Sign in sheet that you have picked up your share. Say hi to Paula at the counter and the shopkeeper for the week! Please use the designated Entrance to the Farm Shop and wash your hands at the handwashing station before entering the shop. Follow the directional guide around the Farm Shop and pick up your share in a timely manner. If you would like to purchase frozen or refrigerated shop items, let Paula know and she will get them for you. And, of course, please try to maintain a 6’ distance from fellow CSA members while in the shop and out in the fields.

***** If you have a Ten Week Share, please keep track of how many weeks you have left to use before the end of the season. Unused weeks do not carry over. *****

Getting Your Share – We utilize a “Mix-and-Match” system of distribution which gives you choices about the food that you take each week. Please remember to bring your reusable bags back each week. We understand that it’s just one more thing to remember, but we are trying to do our due diligence as stewards of the land and reduce our plastic waste. Bags can and should be washed in between each use for food safety (it’s a good idea to keep them in your car once you wash them so that there’s no forgetting!) We use these to measure the size of the share that week. For instance, one week you might get 1 full bag of greens and ¾ bag of “hard veggies” (squash, carrots, onions, peppers etc). We’ll have the week’s share listed on the blackboards in the farmshop. If we are short on something, we may put a limit on it that week i.e. one bunch of beets maximum. Please note that it is important to use the produce bags that we provide since that is how we calibrate the share. All of this information will be posted and there will be someone in the farm shop to answer your questions!

U-Pick: Some of the crops are U-Pick such as herbs, beans, cherry tomatoes, peas etc. We’ll have a listing in the farm shop letting you know where these crops are in the field and how much you can pick: a quart of peas, 1 bunch of flowers etc. We will not be providing scissors this year as we need to cut down on shared materials. If you would like to snip your flowers or herbs with scissors, please bring your own. Apologies for any inconvenience. You can pick these crops during farm shop hours or you can pick them anytime Monday – Friday before 7:00PM on non-rainy days. So if the weekly allotment is 1 quart of cherry tomatoes, 1/3 a bag of

beans and 1 big bunch of flowers, you can pick them during shop or any weekday that week. And every Saturday starts a new distribution week so the U-Pick allotments will be updated and reset for that week. We do ask that you only pick when the fields and plants are dry to minimize damage to the crops. We reserve the right to close the fields if they are too wet. **Also please note that the farm is closed at 7:00pm during the week and 4:00 on Saturdays. The farm is closed on Sundays entirely. Please respect the folks who live on the farm and their privacy.**

If you are physically unable to get out to the fields to pick, please email us and we can pick produce for you in advance of your pick up time! Email us at csa@fernbrookfarms.com

Bulk Food - When we have a real surplus of a crop, you'll have the option of buying extra at a bulk price. These items will be listed and priced in the farm shop. We do this to allow you to grow the size of your share and do some stocking up for winter!

Other Food / Products – We'll be selling many amazing items at the farmshop, many either local or organic including honey, organic coffee, cheese, eggs, organic mushrooms, jams, local poultry and sausage, CSA T-Shirts, and more! If you have questions or suggestions about the farmshop, you can contact Jess Brandeisky at jess@fernbrookfarms.com. We accept cash, check, and credit. We are excited to have Paula back in the farmshop for the 2020 season!

Compost - We do have a shareholder compost bin near the farm shop (walk down the blackberry row closest to the shop and look to your left). Feel free to bring your compostables to be recycled. **YES** – plant-based wastes such as banana peels, apple cores, coffee grounds, corn cobs etc (egg shells OK). **NO** – meat / dairy wastes, plastic bags / wrappers, very rancid waste. If you have any questions about what is OK just ask us. And shovel some woodchips on top to help us keep the compost pile healthy and well maintained!

PIZZA BOXES - We have instituted 'Project Pizza Box' at Fernbrook. We collect pizza boxes and use them as a mulch / weed barrier in between rows. To date we have used over 3,000 boxes and returned their carbon back into the soil! Feel free to drop off your pizza boxes and log them in the notebook so we can track our progress!! Ask us and we can show you where we are collecting them.

Trails – There are trails on the farm, but these are currently closed. Please respect this rule and we hope that at some point we can change it.

Restrooms: There will only be 1 port-a-john this year so that we can maintain a proper sanitization schedule. Find it to your right as you walk out towards the U-Pick fields from the shop. Please use the hand sanitizer!

Pigs - We raise pigs every year from Spring to Autumn for our end of the year pork sale. Feel free to visit them and be aware that they are inside an **ELECTRIC** fence (please do not touch). And do not feed them grain from the trash cans. They are in the fields across from the Farm Shop – look for signs! Take a break from the couch and enjoy watching some 'Pig TV.' These pigs are a mixed heritage breed and come from Nature's Own Farm in Columbus, NJ.

What should I bring to the Farm? Bring extra canvass bags to haul your various bags of produce and other goods. You may want a good pair of scissors for flowers and herbs. **REUSE YOUR QUART AND PINT CONTAINERS!** We will have some in the shop but we really encourage you to keep your old ones handy. You are also welcome to use your own pint and quart containers (yogurt containers etc). You also may want to bring water, a hat and money for the shop goods. Bring your own hand sanitizer if you would like to, but we will have some available for use before and after entering the farm shop.

We Do Have A Few Guidelines For The CSA:

If you cannot pick-up your share, you are welcome to send someone else to pick it up that week!! **We can't give you a double share the following week, so please plan in advance if you can't make it.**

Dogs are allowed on the farm but only if they're really cute and well-behaved. **Please keep all dogs on a leash and please clean up after your dog. No dogs in the farm shop please unless they are service animals.**

There is a private residence and a Historic Inn near the CSA farm shop. Please respect their space and privacy by staying on the CSA fields. The farm is closed at 7:00pm during the week and at 4:00 on Saturdays and we'll ask that all CSA customers leave the fields and farm at those times. The farm is also closed on Sundays.

The farm is a great place for children! Please help them enjoy the farm by showing the things they can pick, what poison ivy looks like, the electric fence around the pigs and where they can and can't go on the farm. We do a tick check with our kids after a day at the farm as well! Please offer us your feedback, thoughts, suggestions, and ideas for the farm. We value what you have to say and it will help to guide the future of the farm. You can always call or email us.

SEE YOU AT THE FARM!!