



Summer CSA Frequently Asked Questions

What is a CSA?

Community Supported Agriculture or CSA Programs are a way to get fresh local seasonal produce directly from the farmers who grow it. Members pre-pay for the season in advance, which allows farmers to have the funding needed to purchase their seeds and supplies at the beginning of the year and ensures that the produce grown has a home during the entire harvest season. If you want to eat more fruits and veggies, try out new recipes/ingredients, spend less time in the grocery store, or be a part of a local food community, joining a CSA is a great way to get started!

I'm sold! How do I buy a share for the summer?

Fill out the signup form on our website (equicenterny.org/farmcsashare) to reserve your share and select your pick up options. Once completed, you will receive an invoice, or notification of your place on our waitlist. After you pay your invoice, you will receive a confirmation email as well as regular updates leading up to the start of the CSA season in June. Signups usually open in Feb-March, with first pick to prior year CSA members. After we fill all of our slots, this form will add people to the waitlist, and we may pull people from the waitlist up until the CSA starts. In June we will close the form until next year.

Where do I pick up my CSA share?

Pick ups will take place at EquiCenter at:

[3247 Rush Mendon Road](#)

[Honeoye Falls, NY 14472](#)

Further details will be sent to the primary contact before the start of the CSA season.

What are your growing practices?

We do our best to partner with the land and grow in sustainable and regenerative ways. We are not certified organic, but we follow and exceed many organic growing standards, and practice reduced tillage/no-till as much as possible. We never use synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides. Our fertility is sourced from compost, cover cropping, and organic fertilizers (like kelp meal, alfalfa meal, and fish hydrolysate). We believe that healthy soil grows healthy plants (and tasty, nutritionally-dense food!), and

do our best to use practices that protect and improve our soils' lively ecosystem. Reach out at any time if you want to learn more– we love talking about how we grow!

Do I need to pick my own vegetables?

Our farm team will have all the produce harvested, bundled, and washed (when appropriate) for you when you arrive. All you need to do is select / pick up your items. As an added bonus, members will have opportunities to visit the sensory garden / edible landscape area in the farm field to pick some extra farm snacks.

What if I need to miss a week?

Summer is a busy time! If you know you will not be able to pick up your share on a certain week, we encourage you to gift it to someone else. Your recipient is welcome to come to either the market day (checking in under your name) or to pick up your labelled bag at their convenience. If you cannot pick up and you do not wish to gift your share, please let us know by the Tuesday before your pickup so that we can donate your share to our hunger relief efforts rather than compost the unclaimed veggies.

What happens to all the other produce you grow?

Our small but mighty farm team grew 13,000+ lbs of produce last year, which was used for onsite programs and events and donated to local hunger relief efforts throughout the Rochester area. Your CSA membership helps to support our mission of getting nutritious local produce to as many people in our community as possible.

Can I bring my family with me when I come to pick up my share? Can we visit the farm?

Yes! We are a working farm and have extensive horticulture and equine program offerings, so you will probably see staff, volunteers, and participant groups working in the field. We ask that all visitors respect our Visitor Guidelines to help us maintain a calm, friendly, and therapeutic environment on the farm. Please note that pets are not allowed onsite and we ask that you carry out any trash you may have with you so we can do our best to keep the space tidy and welcoming for everyone. We have picnic tables inside the farm that you are welcome to use if they are not being used by other programs. We also hope to offer some CSA-member-specific gathering times this year; stay tuned for more information about those!

There are a lot of horses at EquiCenter...can we pet them / bring them treats?

There are approximately 30 horses at EquiCenter's facilities at any given time. You are welcome to watch the horses from outside the pasture, but do not touch the fences or pet/feed the horses. Never enter a pasture, stall, or employees only area. This is to

keep both you and the horses safe. If you'd like to bring the horses some treats, there is a horse snack refrigerator in the TACK ROOM inside the South Barn where you are welcome to drop off apples, carrots, and peppermints. You may see participants on trail rides along the paved driveway or a horse handler bringing horses in and out of the riding arenas. Please give them the right of way so we can keep lessons moving in a timely and safe manner.

Do you do anything on the farm besides just growing veggies?

Yes we do! Growing on the farm is a year round operation with vegetable production in the field and greenhouse. We also keep honeybees who help to pollinate our crops and make delicious honey, make maple syrup in the late winter, and lead food preservation classes. As part of your CSA e-newsletter, you'll be among the first to know when specialty value-added products like maple syrup, honey, jams, pickles, and more are available.

What's included in the CSA e-newsletter?

Before pick up each week, the primary contact for each share will receive an e-newsletter by email including what produce will be available for that week's pick up, updates from the farm team, announcements about upcoming programs/events, and seasonal recipes.

Can I volunteer on the farm?

Yes! We are always looking for extra hands to help us in the field. You can sign up for a shift on our [Farm Volunteers webpage](#).

How do I sign up for programs at EquiCenter?

For horticulture programs, please see the [Horticulture webpage](#).

To learn more about horsemanship lessons, please see the [Adaptive Riding & Horsemanship webpage](#). Please note, there is currently a wait list for riding lessons.

Don't see the answers you're looking for here?

Please reach out to our team by email at farm@equicenterny.org or call/text the farm phone at 585.404.1079.