

CSA Member Agreement & Guidelines

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a partnership between the farm and its CSA members. In a CSA the producers and the members share the risks and rewards of the farm. We are a grower led CSA, a worker cooperative, and a not-for-profit business.

This agreement outlines our shared commitments.

CSA Membership

Members will receive a share of the harvest proportionate to the amount they bought (0.5, 1, or 1.5). As a member, I understand that by receiving a share (rather than a set amount) I am sharing the risks that come with farming (for example, the influence the weather has on production).

In 2024 the CSA season runs from mid-May through to the end of January 2025 (about 37 weeks). As a member, I understand that extremely cold temperatures in April could mean the season starts slightly later than that and extremely warm temperatures could mean the season starts slightly earlier.

All shares of the same size contain the same vegetables. It is likely that, at certain times of the year, you will have significantly more veg than at other times. Please use this, and the odd veg you may not like (yet), as an opportunity to build relationships with friends and neighbours (by gifting, bartering, etc.).

We encourage you to build a meaningful relationship with the farm. Whilst joining a CSA is a great thing to do for many reasons (see our website) nothing gives more insight into where your food comes from than volunteering at the farm. If you would like to volunteer please reach out to us to arrange this.

CSA members will be entitled to a 15% discount on our events and workshops.

We will hold 3 (free of charge) on farm days throughout the season for CSA members where we will work together, share lunch, and introduce you to likeminded people. All CSA members are welcome.

CSA Shares

Half Share (0.5)	Fortnightly medium box. Suited to a one person household or those looking to cook with a little more fresh produce.
Full Share (1.0)	Weekly medium box. Suited to 1-2 person household.
One and a half share (1.5)	Weekly large box. Suitable for a family or mainly veg diet household.

We encourage you to purchase the share size that meets the needs of your household. If you like us to advise on which one is best for you, please ask us prior to completing your signup.

You can purchase as many shares as you like. You are welcome to split your share with someone else. However, you do so at your own discretion.

Start Up Stirling Shares

Shares for Start Up Stirling will be made up from donations paid by members and non-members. More information on our website and in the "Available Shares" document.

Upper Ballaird Farm Growing Practices

Upper Ballaird Farm grows using agroecological practices. We do not use synthetic chemical herbicides, pesticides, or fertilisers. We use minimal tillage, cover crops, green manures, mulch, and compost to build soil health.

We plan to grow a diverse range of vegetables over the season. We make every effort to offer you quality produce using measures, such as, irrigation, protected growing spaces, row covers, companion planting, and crop rotation. We consider germination rates and reasonable plant loss figures in our planning (a buffer) and apply regenerative practices to minimise the risk of crop losses. Despite these efforts, the quantity of produce will vary from week to week and season to season due to nature doing its thing (weather, insects, and/or other factors).

We do not buy produce in. Everything you receive in your share is grown on the farm for you/the members. As we offer seasonal produce you will find that your share may be lighter in weight at the beginning and end of the season and fuller

during the height of summer. This encourages us to eat with the seasons; our bodies have evolved to be fed that way.

By joining our CSA, you are agreeing to share the risk of crop failure with us and other members. Similarly, when we have a particularly good season/crop you will receive more.

Collection

Members are responsible for picking up shares each week (on a Thursday) at their collection point. In areas where there is sufficient demand, we will try to arrange a more local collection point. We encourage people to team up to collect boxes if driving is needed to reduce the environmental footprint and to get to know each other.

We encourage you to bring your own bags, boxes, or cooler to carry your vegetables home. If you forget you can borrow our box but must return it at your next collection.

We do not offer home delivery at this point.

If you are unable to pick up your share, or you are on holiday, please give us as much advanced notice as possible- Ideally one week in advance but at the latest 24h (so we do not bring your veg to the collection point that week).

Once you've contacted us, we can arrange for you to collect your share from the farm the following day (Friday, between 8:30 and 15:00) or for someone else to collect on your behalf. All veg uncollected by 15hs on Friday will be delivered to Start Up Stirling the same afternoon.

Payment

All signups require a non-refundable deposit. This equals 1 monthly payment of the share type you have chosen (including donation amounts if applicable).

You can decide to pay for the whole season in advance. By making a payment in advance of the growing season you reduce the burden of up-front costs for the farmers (us). Your membership fees provide us with funds to purchase seed, substrates, etc. before the season starts. We understand that this requires a certain degree of trust in us and your support is much appreciated.

Alternatively, a monthly direct debit is set up at the time of commitment (signing up as a CSA member). We will start debiting the monthly share price (always paying for 1 month in advance) once we started to deliver veg.

Cancellation and Refund policy

We expect members to commit to the CSA for a whole season, it is a central point of the CSA business model. However, we do understand that special circumstances can arise. If you need to cancel your membership during the season you must give written notice. Your membership will then end with the completion of the following month. In other words, we will complete the month we are in when notice is received AND complete one more full month before terminating the membership at the end of that month. This means that the farm has always at least 1 month to find new members for the share you vacate.