

# January 2026 Open Day – Fri 9<sup>th</sup> and Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Jan

## Draft CSA Member Agreement & Guidelines, 2026



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. Since 2022 we have been a grower led CSA but are moving towards a more community-led model in 2026. We are also a worker cooperative and a not-for-profit business. This DRAFT agreement outlines our shared commitments and will be firmed up in January. No commitment or payment is sought today

### CSA Membership and Shares

Members will receive a share of the harvest proportionate to the amount they bought (small or standard). 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 2026 the CSA season runs from mid-May through to the end of January 2027 (about 36 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.

### Share Sizes

- **Small Box, price £12** – suited to 1-2 person household
- **Standard Box, price £16** – suited to 3-5 person household

Last year we offered the option to overpay a share to subsidise those in the community who cannot easily afford a full share, and this may be again offered in 2026 – to be confirmed.

All box 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.

Boxes can be requested *weekly* or *fortnightly*, depending on your requirements. Subscriptions cannot be paused through the year, but if you are away on holiday then your box can be prepared for a neighbour or donated to the Farm's chosen charity (*Start Up Stirling*, a community support organization established in 1994 to assist individuals in financial difficulty, poverty, or crisis across the Stirling Council area.)

### Collection

Members are responsible for picking up their boxes each week/fortnight from their collection point. In areas where there is sufficient demand, we will try to arrange a local collection point. We encourage people to team up to collect boxes if driving is needed, and 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 offer home delivery for a small fee to local areas. 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.

## Volunteering at the Farm

The farm really needs more help from the local community to keep it running and to eventually be able to create enhanced products and services to the community. To this end, a CSA Members Committee has been established to oversee volunteering activities. There will be many and regular opportunities to help plan, dig, sow, weed, and harvest, as well as machinery maintenance and the all-important back-office work. We aim to create a vibrant community of people helping each other to grow and provide healthy food.

As part of volunteering, we want to establish a work-share scheme where volunteering members can pay for vegetables with time, e.g. four hours of work might earn a Standard Share. For more information on this, and to keep up-to-date, please join our newsletter (use the **Join The Community** button on the front page of the website).

## Payment

All signups will 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, when signing up through *Ooooby* (the platform we're using to track orders) payments will be taken monthly.

## 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.

## 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.

