



FRESH NEWS

Introduction to Programs 1
 FAQs..... 2

REASONS TO JOIN HICKORY HURST FARM'S CSA PROGRAM

Select what you like. Craving mixed greens? Grab as many bunches—subject to availability—as you'd like. Hosting a dinner party? Pick up everything you'll need at our CSA Market on Thursdays.

Going on holiday? No more skipping weeks or sending someone to retrieve your CSA basket. Enjoy your time away; your balance will be waiting for you upon your return.

More than produce. Grab some home-grown celery for the dinner party. Feast on raw honey; local eggs, maple syrup, cheese, or some local value-added products.

Weekly newsletters. Receive weekly newsletters that announce the week's harvest and recipes featuring produce in season.

Support your local family farm. Chat and shoot the breeze with a real live, local farmer.

THE Hickory Hurst CSA FARM CARD * A Flexible Way to "CSA" in 2024 *

Dreaming of peas? Longing for lettuce? Hickory Hurst Farm's new [CSA Farm Card](#) gives CSA members greater flexibility to indulge in the kind and quantity of produce in their weekly CSA basket.

CSA members purchase a \$135 to \$1000 Farm Card which they can spend like cash throughout the season at our CSA Market on Thursdays. Members select as much or as little as they would like during the course of the season, and we subtract your weekly selections from the Farm Card's balance. Remember, too, that the CSA Farm Card never expires.

(CHQ members—During the CHQ season, we'll still offer delivery to Turner Community Center, Thursdays, 5:00-5:30 PM. Order your CSA basket ingredients by 11:59 PM, Tuesdays, for it to be considered for delivery the next day.)

CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. The perks of joining a CSA include access to tasty, fresh, locally-grown food; knowing the origins of your food and how it was grown; meeting your local farmer; and supporting your local family farm. CSA programs provide farmers with capital to cover early season expenses such as seeds and greenhouse repair.

The amount and frequency in which you receive your fresh produce is up to you. Produce will vary based on crops ready to harvest; other farm products will vary based on availability. Members reserve their CSA membership slot by purchasing a CSA Farm Card; we also offer the flexibility of paying by the week at the time of pick-up. For the 2024 season, members will be begin picking up their CSA baskets at the farm in late May.

Look for details on pages 2 and 3.



Our cut flowers, herbs, veggies, and fruits are certified organic by NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC. We collaborate with other farms to provide additional local fruits, cheese, brown eggs, and maple syrup.

FAQs on Hickory Hurst Farm's Flex CSA

Q: How does the Flex CSA differ from a traditional CSA?

A: In 2019 Hickory Hurst Farm switched to a Flex CSA from the traditional shares. Members wanted more flexibility in selecting what they want and the quantity. We offer a shopping basket approach where you can select items "off the menu".

Q: What is the 2024 CSA Schedule?

Right now, the CSA is slated to start on Thursday, 23 May 2024, and run for 22 weeks until 17 October 2024.

Q: Is everything that Hickory Hurst Farm grows organic?

A: Yes. We are USDA Certified Organic for all of our own cut flowers, herbs, and veggies and fruits; we grow those crops without the use of synthetic pesticides or GE (genetically engineered) foods. We strive to minimize any pests that may be harvested with your produce, but we still recommend careful washing and inspection.

Q: Does Hickory Hurst Farm use preservatives or chemical sprays to improve the shelf life of our vegetables?

A: NO WAY! This is better for your health, but requires more thoughtful use of your share.

Q: When is payment due?

A: Due to COVID we switched to offering more flexibility in payment. You can pay when you pick up your order. The original feature of the CSA was to purchase a CSA Farm Card early in the season to provide the farm with funding for pre-season costs such as greenhouse repairs. We do offer a 5% Early Bird Discount in autumn for the next year's CSA. Pre-payment reserves your CSA membership for the next season while giving Hickory Hurst Farm start-up funds for seeds and potting soil. CSA memberships are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Q: Do CSA members need to do any work on the farm?

A: No. We do all of the work in growing and harvesting your vegetables and fruit. All you need to do is enjoy!

Q: Can I choose the fruits/vegetables I want in my box each week?

A: Yes. You select what you want and how much you want, subject to availability. If you want large quantities for preserving food, then please notify us by 11:59 PM, Tuesday, of that week so that we determine if there will be enough produce that week to meet your request. We will also have raw honey, local eggs, sprouts, maple syrup, and local meat, depending on availability.

Q: Can I make any substitutions with any of the CSA ingredients?

A: With the Flex CSA you choose what you want and its quantity. Substitutions may occur when an item sells out. In that case, you will be notified via e-mail what has sold out and a possible substitution for that item. The monetary value of the substituted item will likely differ from sold-out item and it's (substituted item) price will still be deducted from your CSA Farm Card.

Q: Do you supply recipes or cooking suggestions?

A: Yes. We try to include at least two recipes in our weekly digital newsletter about the week's CSA harvest. Check your Inbox on Mondays for the weekly CSA newsletter during the growing season. That gives you some advance notice for preparing your shopping list for Thursday.

Q: What if we're strictly vegan (vegetarian)?

A: Our CSA allows you flexibility in selecting whatever produce and quantity you want (produce subject to availability).

Q: What about herbs, specialty vegetables, eggs, sprouts, or edible flowers?

A. We look forward to providing you with a variety of all the produce we grow. We will always stock eggs, sprouts, honey, and maple syrup. Each week will always feature at least one herb, too. Please feel free to suggest new items. We look forward to trying new things as much as you do.

Q: What if there are vegetables that I/we haven't tried before?

A: We tend to grow some unusual items, e.g., white cucumbers, edible flowers, blue potatoes, ginger, and turmeric. We encourage members to try new foods and use the recipes included in the weekly e-mail.

Q: What if I/we can't eat it all before the next pick-up date?

A: Going on holiday? Enjoy the time away. The balance on your CSA Farm Card will be waiting for you upon your return. Choose which weeks you want to pick up the CSA goodies and the quantities that you want. If you do pick up more than you'd planned and are unable to use it or preserve it, then we highly recommend you give those items to a neighbor, friend, family member, or co-worker who will use those unwanted items. This reduces food waste.

Q: What if I/my family ends up wanting more produce or items at the last minute?

A: Keep in mind that we harvest everything for CSA on Wednesdays. That means our crew is busily harvesting, processing, and packing your CSA basket for you on Wednesdays, too. Most everything sells out for that week.

If there are any excess items, then they will be available for purchase at the time of CSA pick-up. We always keep staple items: eggs, honey, maple syrup, and most meats in stock. Please respect our harvest schedule. Logistics and labor make it a real challenge or nearly impossible to accommodate orders at the last minute.

Q: What other Add-Ons will be available?

A: We hope to continue stocking fresh, whole frozen chicken, ground beef, and pork sausage. Other Add-Ons could include mushrooms, local cheese, and butter. These Add-Ons are available only to CSA members and not the general public.

Q: When can I pick up my share?

A: Distribution days are: Thursdays, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, at the farm. CHQ residents can pick up their CSA baskets at Turner Community Center, Thursdays, 5:00-5:30 PM.

Q: Do I need a container?

A: Yes. Bring two to four re-usable grocery bags to carry your produce.

Q: What if I cannot pick up my share that week?

A: Enjoy your time away. Unless you plan to be away for an extended period of time, there will be plenty of time to use your CSA Farm Card within the CSA season (expected to be 22 weeks for 2024). Otherwise, find a friend, co-worker, neighbor, or family member to pick up your CSA goodies for that week.

FAQs on Hickory Hurst Farm's Flex CSA

Q: Oops. I forgot to pick up my share on Thursday? What do I do?

A: This happens every summer. The CSA member gets waylaid or simply forgets. In that case, simply e-mail, text, or call us to make other arrangements. If you happen to forget to pick up at the farm during the day, then you can pick up your CSA basket at Turner Community Center, 5:00-5:30 PM. Other options include picking up your CSA basket at the farm on Friday.

If we have not heard from you to make other arrangements, then your CSA basket will be donated to a local family in need. We are all adults and it is your responsibility to show up to pick up your CSA basket. Everyone's time is valuable. Simply notify us if your plans have changed.

Q: Do we forfeit our basket if we're away on distribution day?

A: No. Enjoy your time away. You may send someone to pick up your basket if you happen to be out of town for the day.

Q: How do the CSA baskets vary throughout the growing season?

A: The season starts slowly. Baskets will consist mostly of greens, herbs, edible flowers, and early season root vegetables in June. As July arrives, the volume and variety in the CSA increase.

Q: Can I pick up items other days of the week? Can I use my CSA Farm Card to purchase those items?

A: Yes. You may pick up eggs, honey, or maple syrup at your convenience during Farm Store hours, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 8:00 AM-5:30 PM.

Yes, you may use your CSA Farm Card. Grab a sticky note from the Farm Store; write down your name and the items that you picked up. We will credit your Farm Card and e-mail you an updated statement of your CSA Farm Card balance.

Q: Am I required to book an appointment to pick up my CSA?

A: No. However, we have found that most CSA customers prefer to book an appointment because they prefer the structure in their schedules.

Q: Do I have to use the Square Appointment app link provided in the CSA newsletter to book an appointment?

A: No. You can state in your CSA order what time you'd like to pick up your CSA basket. The Square Appointment app makes it easier for us (Hickory Hurst Farm) to book appointments without having to maintain a written ledger.



Here is the QR code to book an appointment for CSA pickup.

Q: What else can I use my CSA Card to purchase?

A: You can use your CSA Farm Card to purchase bouquets, farm workshops, or wreaths. Many CSA members add on a bouquet to their weekly CSA basket. When placing your CSA order for the week, list Bouquet in your order.

Can I make my own bouquet? Yes. Make your own bouquet from our Flower Stand., although you'll get the freshest flowers when you order a bouquet through the CSA basket. Flowers tend to get wiped out and picked over at the Flower Stand.

Q: With the Flex CSA how do I place an order?

A: E-mail your order to us by Tuesdays, 11:59 PM. That link will always be provided in the CSA newsletter. It will show up as a "button" that you click.

You will receive the CSA newsletter on Mondays. Sometimes, due to the farm's busy schedule you may not receive the CSA newsletter until Tuesday. If that is the case, then the ordering deadline will be extended.

Orders for items in the CSA basket are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Items such as mixed greens tend to sell out quickly.

Please stay tuned to your Inbox for that weekly CSA newsletter. Some of the newsletter titles may be a little quirky but we don't fill your Inbox with Spam just for something to do.

E-mail works the best because it provides written documentation of your order and we accept e-mail 24/7.

Q: What happens to excess funds on my CSA card at the end of the season?

A: The digital CSA Farm card never expires. You can elect to do any of the following with the excess funds:

- 1) Carry the funds over to the next year;
- 2) Spend down the remaining funds on your CSA Farm Card;
- 3) Donate funds to another CSA member;
- 4) Donate the balance to a local family in need.

We work with the local food bank and local families to give them leftover produce from the CSA. We also use excess CSA monies to purchase the produce and donate it to local families.

Q: How do I replenish funds on my CSA Farm Card?

- A:**
- 1) Purchase another CSA Farm Card from our Web site.
 - 2) Drop off payment in person—cash, check, or credit card—when you pick up your CSA basket.
 - 3) Drop off payment at the Pay-and-Take box at our Farm Store during regular business hours, Tuesday-Saturday, 8:00 AM -5:30 PM.
 - 4) Mail us a check payable to Hickory Hurst Farm, LLC.

Q: How will I know the balance on my CSA Farm Card?

A: You'll receive a weekly statement via e-mail that gives the balance on your CSA Farm Card. Statements usually get sent on Fridays or Saturdays.

Q: What if I'm allergic to a food?

A: Check the food description in the CSA newsletter. We do our best to list all of the known ingredients with our harvested produce. For example, we'll list all of the greens for the Mixed Greens.

Q: How can I contact the farm for more information?

A: Visit our Web site via the QR code at right.

