

CSA Membership Agreement 2019

Contact info: Baylee Drown at (616) 292-3311

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Mailing address: Upper Pond Farm 102 Sill Lane, Old Lyme, CT

Member Name: _____

Member Contact Number: _____

Member Email: _____

Member Address: _____

Share Size: Medium

Member Preferred Pick Up Location and Time: _____ Massonicare Mystic



Our Story

Baylee started our farm in 2014, after managing a 25 acre diversified CSA farm in Vermont for 3 years, and growing up on a dairy farm in Michigan. She chose Old Lyme as a location to start her farm business because her partner, Ryan “Quinn” Quinn, had grown up in Lyme and attended Lyme-Old Lyme High School. He appreciated the town, culture, community and landscape, and encouraged her to settle here. Quinn helped her start the farm while teaching, and has become a vital part of Upper Pond Farm. Baylee and Quinn love the lower Connecticut River Valley and are excited to grow for you this season.

Upper Pond is a sustainable vegetable farm whose mission is to grow fresh, healthy food for our community, free of synthetic pesticides and herbicides. We raise seasonal vegetables, edible flowers, microgreens, small fruits and keep bees on our six acre plot of land adjacent to Upper Mill Pond in Old Lyme and on our 5 acre plot located at New Mercies Farm in Lyme, Connecticut.

We manage our landscape holistically using ecological practices. Improving soil health and structure, along with enhancing biodiversity are top priorities. The majority of work is done by human power, providing jobs and experience to people rather than tractors. We use tractor power for some jobs that are too large for human power.

We believe in healthy food access for all people. This is why we feed our community directly with our **Community Supported Agriculture** project.

How does our CSA work?

A CSA is a relationship between a farmer and community members, in which every week the farm provides vegetables and fruits to the community members. Instead of paying weekly, the **CSA members purchase a share of the crop at the beginning of the growing season**. This ensures a portion of our crop will be provided to you. If the farm has a surplus, then the community members benefit with extra produce. If a single crop fails, then your farmer will substitute a different crop. **Complete crop failures will result in your farmer purchasing produce from other organic, local and sustainable farms, so you will not go home empty handed**. We grow a surplus of produce to ensure that even if we lose a large portion, we should have enough to share with our community.

The **greatest benefit of CSA membership is the relationship** that develops between the farmer, land and community members. You are invested in our farm, and we honor the trust of that relationship by holding a high standard of care in our practices. It is our pleasure to grow for you. **Feeding you fulfills us as well**. It is our pleasure to provide you with safe, healthy food that enriches your lives and our land. For more CSA information, visit <http://www.localharvest.org/csa/>.

Pick Up Policy

Your share will be dropped off to Masonicare in Mystic between 2:30 and 3PM on Fridays. You are welcome to visit our farm on Saturdays between 10AM and 12PM to take advantage of our complimentary you pick section of herbs, flowers and berries. If you would prefer to pick up on some Saturdays, we can accommodate changes if notified 24 hours in advance.

Production Methods

We are a Northeast Organic Farming Association Member Farm. We believe in using organic practices, as well as ecologically sound practices. We have agreed to implement the Organic Farmer's Pledge Practices, which you can view here: www.ctnofa.org/farmerspledge.html

The health of our land and harvest is of the utmost importance to us. We monitor the biological diversity of our farm environment, and use practices that enable our farm to benefit the surround area. Our growing style is heavily influenced by Elliot Coleman and agroecology. We use Holistic Management to ensure our decisions reflect our values and keep ourselves and business healthy.

Share Description

Your share will have 7-9 different nutritious plants each week with cooking ideas and nutrition information. You can swap out items that are not to your liking for items you prefer more of in your share. Crops we are planting for 2018 shares: strawberries, tomatoes (slicing and cherry), head lettuce, leaf lettuce, dry beans, potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots, beets, radishes, sweet turnips, asparagus, strawberries, mustard greens, kale, arugula, microgreens, spinach, Swiss chard, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, pac choi, Chinese cabbage, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini, summer squash, winter squash, eggplants, onions, shallots, garlic, scallions, beans, peas, ginger, turmeric and herbs.

Your share will come with a set amount and selection of produce. When you pick up your share at New Mercies Farm, we will have a selection of additional produce available for you to add to your share. If there is a crop in your share you will not use, please feel free to leave it for another member to enjoy.

Share Sizes

Medium Share: This share will cost \$500 for 20 weeks. Last season, the medium shares averaged a farmer's market value of \$41 per share per week.

Payment

Return your completed and signed contract with a check for the full amount of your share. If you would like to make further payment arrangements, discuss a barter arrangement, please contact Baylee to discuss details. Shares are not refundable, but are transferable. Checks may be sent to Upper Pond Farm, 102 Sill Lane, Old Lyme, CT 06371.

CSA member signature and date

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X _____

X _____

X _____