

# Parsnips and Paddocks 2019 CSA Membership Agreement

## 1. A Little About Us and Our CSA

We, Parsnips and Paddocks, wish to provide you with fresh, local, seasonal food and you, the member, wish to receive a portion of our harvest. This agreement outlines our shared commitments to that relationship.

Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between our farm and you as our customer. Rather than simply purchasing food, our customers become “members” of this CSA farm who receive a portion of the farm’s harvest.

Our CSA runs for 10 weeks, from July through September and includes a Thanksgiving Basket in the week before Thanksgiving. Members are responsible for showing up at the farm each week to pick up your share of freshly harvested produce.

We are NOT certified organic and it is important to us for you to understand why. We are lucky in Canada to have one of the safest food systems and strictest regulatory systems in the world. Chemicals and products undergo years of testing for efficacy, residue, and potential for harm to humans and the environment. We put our trust in the science and researchers who spend years of their life devoted to these topics and have faith that they understand their effects. That being said, we subscribe to the ideology of integrated pest management which means that for every pest or problem, there are multiple ways of controlling them, of which chemicals is but one.

We make every effort to reduce or avoid the use of pesticides on our farm, however if it means the difference between losing a crop outright and potentially salvaging a season, know that we will always choose our livelihoods first. By buying a membership in our CSA, this becomes part of your livelihood as well, as we know that the best use of your dollar is important to you as well. We also expect you to have questions and inquire as to why we do one thing instead of another. We love talking to you and helping you understand where your food comes. With that in mind however, we ultimately remain in charge of production and all decisions made regarding it.

The chart below outlines some of the vegetables we hope to deliver and when you may see them in your share. This chart is based on our best estimate, but of course weather, pests, and other events will affect actual production.

<b>July</b>	Beets Cilantro Dill	Kale Lettuce Mesclun	Mint Green onions Parsley	Peas Radish Spinach	Swiss Chard Turnip
<b>August</b>	Beans Beets Carrots Corn	Cucumbers Dill Garlic Kale	Lettuce Mesclun Mint Onions	Parsley Potatoes Swiss Chard Tomatoes	Zucchini
<b>September</b>	Beets Carrots Corn	Cucumbers Dill Garlic	Lettuce Onions Potatoes	Spinach Squash Swiss Chard	Tomatoes Turnip Zucchini

Given the volume of produce that we deal with and the number of members that we have, we are unable to substitute vegetables regardless of reason. You’re more than welcome to take advantage of our “Take It or Leave It” bin by leaving unwanted produce and taking others produce instead.

We take the safety of your food seriously. When picked, your produce will have a majority of dirt removed if very dirty, however we otherwise leave washing up to you. We therefore recommend you wash all produce before eating.

We promise to do our best to provide you with a bountiful share each week. The quantity of produce, however, may vary from week-to-week due to extreme weather, insects, or other production factors despite our best efforts. By joining our CSA, you are agreeing to share the risk of crop failure with us and other members. In the unlikely event of a crop failure, our procedure is as follows:

If only a small portion of crops fail, we compensate for the failed crops by filling your share with other crops grown on the farm that are ready for harvest at that time. If a large portion of crops fail, we may not be able to deliver any product in some weeks.

## **2. Surpluses and Our Farm Store**

In addition to our CSA, our farm sells produce through our farm store. We segregate our production for the CSA by allocating a certain amount of each planting for the CSA. When production of our CSA segregated crops are especially abundant, we pack as much as possible into your share. However, we don't want to overwhelm our members or deliver so much produce that it goes to waste. When we feel that members have received enough of certain crops, we handle the surplus by selling it in the farm store. Please note that we produce some items exclusively for our farm store or in trialing future crops for the CSA. You may see these products in the farm store and are more than welcome to purchase them, but may not receive them in your CSA share.

## **3. Pickup**

You are responsible for picking up your share each week from your chosen location. You are responsible for observing our pickup rules, which are as follows:

1. Bring a reusable bag or box in which to take your share home in.
2. Pick up your share within the timeframe stated. If you are unable to, please make arrangements with us ahead of time. If we have not heard from you before pickup, your share will be taken to the local soup kitchen.
3. Obey all posted farm rules

If you cannot pick-up your share, you're more than welcome to arrange for someone else to pick it up for you. We do ask however, that you let us know who will be picking it up for you. You are responsible for explaining the pick-up location and procedures to your substitute. Shares that are not retrieved within the pick-up time will be donated to a local charity.

## **4. Membership and Payment**

By selling memberships in advance of the growing season, CSA reduces the burden of up-front costs for the farmer. Your membership fees provide us with money to purchase seed and equipment before the season starts, and we appreciate your commitment. We have two options for purchasing a share, as indicated below:

	Full Payment	Split Payment
<b>Wetaskiwin</b> Pickup on farm, Thursdays from 3:30-5:30	\$300	\$330

*Split payment option requires half of membership fee paid upfront and remainder paid by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.*

Regardless of how you are paying for your share, we ask that you purchase your share through our online store. Following through the online system will indicate that you have read and accept the terms and conditions of this contract. Payment can be made via cash, cheque, e-transfer or PayPal. Cheques should be made payable to Dustin and Anna Morton. Should you opt to pay for your share with a cheque or cash, we will contact you shortly to arrange payment. Alternatively, if you cannot pay using the online system, we ask that you print out this form, fill it out completely and enclose payment with it.

If you have chosen to pay the membership fee using two payments, please enclose the filled and signed form along with 2 cheques; one dated with the current date and one dated June 1st. Alternatively, you will be invoiced for the second payment at the email you provide at the bottom of this form. If payment for the second half isn't received by May 1<sup>st</sup>, all payment will be forfeit. NSF cheques will be charged \$25.

All payments are non-refundable after May 31st.

### **5. How to Reach Us**

The best way to communicate with us is via phone or email. Both can be found on the "Contact Us" page of this site. We will do our best to respond as soon as possible, but please understand that we spend most of our time in the field growing your food and not at our desk.

Please contact us with any news of the following: changes to your postal or email address, problems with your pick-up, or dissatisfaction with your share.

We will communicate with you through the email address that you provide us with when you sign up. In order to avoid confusion or missing out on important updates, please add the email 'info@parsnipsandpaddocks.com' to your safe senders list. Please read your email from us as it will be the main method of updating you on the farm, crops available, or upcoming events.

### **6. Agreement**

By signing below, I agree to purchase the membership share as discussed. I understand that, although unlikely, the farm may change parts of this agreement related to production and distribution from time to time. I understand that they will contact me via email in advance of any changes to this agreement.

Name:

Address:

Phone #:

Email:

Date:

Signature