

CSA Member Agreement for 2015

Meristem Farm and Nursery, LLC
7308 John Schram Drive, Papillion, NE 68046

www.MeristemFarmAndNursery.com

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Member Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

We, the farm, 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.

Becoming a Part of Our Farm

Community Supported 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 **Traditional CSA** runs for 20 weeks, from June 2 to October 13. Members pick up shares of freshly harvested produce each week at our farm. You will generally receive a full box of vegetables and herbs, equivalent to two grocery bags of produce or up to three bags during peak season. Detailed information regarding pick-up is discussed below.

For members who desire flexibility throughout the season, we offer a limited number of **Market Shares** in the amounts of \$200 and \$100. These are purchased up-front at a discount, and may be redeemed at our farmers market locations or once a week at the farm (Tuesday 4-7 pm). We will have booths at the Papillion Farmers Market (Wednesday evening) in downtown Papillion and at the Aksarben Market (Sunday morning) in Omaha. If we add more markets, we will communicate that to members. Each purchase will reduce the balance in your share account. Market Shares may be used for baked goods, jams, plants, and aronia berries in addition to produce.

Our Farm and Nursery

We have farmed here with organic practices for over thirty years. Organic produce is grown without using conventional pesticides, bioengineering, ionizing radiation, or fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients or sewage sludge. We manage weeds and pests with physical methods, or with National Organic Program (NOP) approved materials when necessary. The farm is not currently USDA Certified Organic, but our application for certification is in progress. We’d be happy to tell you more about our practices or give you a tour of the farm.

In addition to growing vegetables, we operate a wholesale nursery specializing in *Aronia melanocarpa*. We are pleased to offer these beautiful and productive shrubs to homeowners as well as producers. Ask us for information about the health benefits of aronia berries. Our CSA boxes will include a share of the berries in September, and we offer frozen berries on request throughout the year.

Our Shared Commitments

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 will compensate for the failed crops by filling your share with other crops grown on the farm. We value our CSA members and will fill your box first before offering the crops at farmers markets. Extreme conditions could affect the quality or quantity of the vegetables we are able to provide. In some cases we may offer you a coupon that can be redeemed for baked goods, jam, or plants at our farmers market booth.

When crops are especially abundant, we will pack extra produce into your share. However, we don't want to overwhelm our members or deliver so much produce that it goes to waste. We will offer a "swap box" at the pick-up site, where you can leave items you don't expect to use or select from another member's excess. If you are interested in bulk purchases for preservation, please contact us.

Picking Up Shares (Traditional CSA option)

Pick-up location: Meristem Farm and Nursery 7308 John Schram Drive, Papillion	Pick-up Time: Tuesday 4 – 7 pm	Delivery Available within 5 miles of the farm. Call for details.
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We are located directly east of the Papio Bay Aquatic Park in Halleck Park. The street turns to gravel just beyond the swimming pool. Continue up the hill, park in the gravel area, and follow the signs to the boxes.

You are responsible for picking up your share each week, within the stated time frame. Please return last week's box every week. If you cannot pick up your share, you must arrange for someone else to pick it up for you, unless you make other arrangements directly with us. Shares that are not retrieved within the pick-up time may be donated.

Member Fees

Your membership fees provide us with money to purchase seed and equipment before the season starts, and we appreciate your commitment. All payments are non-refundable after June 1.

Select (X)		Price if paid before March 1	Price if paid after March 1
	20 week traditional CSA share (box)	\$ 495	\$ 525
	\$200 market share	\$ 185	\$ 195
	\$100 market share	\$ 95	\$ 97

Communicating with Us

You may communicate with us via email, text, or phone. Our contact information is at the top of this document. 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.

When you sign up, you will be added to our email distribution list. We depend on email to communicate important information such as necessary changes to distribution or invitations to farm events. Every week we will email an update about the crops available that week, recipe ideas, or other farm-related news.

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

Name (please print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please send this signed agreement with payment to 7308 John Schram Dr, Papillion, NE 68046. Thank you for joining us!