



## **2021 CSA Member Guide**

### **Brief Overview of Amy's Acre**

Amy's Acre was started in 2014 on ¼ acre of leased land in Caledonia. Since the beginning, the goal of the farm has been to provide a reliable source of high-quality fresh vegetables for customers. Over 25 different crops are grown each season. Amy's Acre is not currently certified organic. However, all inputs used on the farm, whether for crop nutrition or insect and disease control, are approved for certified organic production. Additionally, seed varieties are carefully selected from companies that support sustainable and organic farming practices through research, farmer - breeder collaborations and competitive pricing. Fertilizers and soil amendments are chosen to meet annual crop requirements and encourage long term health for soil microorganisms. If you have questions about the farm and growing practices used to grow your food, do not hesitate to reach out.

### **What is CSA?**

CSA stands for Community Supported Agriculture. The idea of CSA came out of the teachings of Rudolf Steiner in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Steiner's legacy includes biodynamic agriculture and anthroposophy. A notable economic concept in Steiner's teachings includes the linking of producers and consumers with mutual interests. CSA farm programs first started popping up in the United States in the 1980s after farmers interested in Steiner's teachings wanted to put them into practice in their own communities.

CSA is a relationship where local eaters provide direct financial support to local farmers in exchange for a share of the season's harvest. In this relationship both the farmer and the farm's members agree to share in the risks (namely weather, and cyclical cash flow) and rewards (abundance of sun, rain, soil, fruits, vegetables, relationship with your food, relationship with your farmer, relationship with a local farm) of a growing season.

For many farms, the physical things needed to farm – seeds, equipment, fertilizers, soil amendments, tools, chicks, feeder pigs, animal feed etc., must be purchased well before there is a sellable product (aka something to earn that return on investment). Of course, farmers know this and plan for it annually, but just as the season's always change, nearly every farm has a time of year where expenditures grossly outpace money coming in. This is where YOU and

other CSA program members step in. Your upfront payment enables the farm to meet the gaps in income to get off to a great start each spring. You are an invested supporter of the farm!

In exchange for the upfront support, your farmer (Amy) commits to returning your investment to you throughout the growing season in the form of nutrient dense, well-tended, fresh vegetables. The total bounty of the season's harvest will always be at the whim of Mother Nature, but CSA members are the top priority for the farm. You will receive the highest quality produce and any extra bounty will be first shared with you as well. If there is crop failure of any kind, you will be notified as soon as possible, and the farm will do its best to provide a proper substitute.

Additionally, and perhaps even more importantly, your investment in the farm means that this is your farm too! As such, you will be kept up to date on what is going on at the farm all season long. Amy believes in full transparency of farm operations and wants this experience to be much more than just a weekly supply of vegetables. Look for weekly updates on farm activities, recipes to help encourage full use of the vegetables in your box and as time and circumstances allow - on-farm gatherings exclusively for CSA members. This relationship requires your participation, so please, please, please provide your feedback throughout the year. There will be times where you will be asked to provide feedback, but the door is always open!

### **What to Expect as a Member of Amy's Acre CSA Program**

- **Weekly share of farmer selected produce**
- **7-12 unique vegetables each week** – number of items as well as quantity of individual items will depend on time of the season
- **Weekly Amy's Acre newsletter** that includes farm announcements and updates, list of what's in the box, recipes and photos
- **Familiar vegetables and a couple of new ones** – do not worry, you will never get a box that is just bitter greens and knobby roots, but you will get more than just lettuce, cucumbers, and tomatoes.
- **A new and exciting relationship with your food and your farmer!**
- **Periodic email reminders before the season begins to get you excited for the growing season but also to make sure you have everything you need to know for pick-ups to go smoothly all year**
- **Open lines of communication with your farmer. Please do not hesitate to contact Amy directly at any point during the season. The best way to reach her is by email at: [amysacrelc@gmail.com](mailto:amysacrelc@gmail.com) You may also call Amy directly at 414-323-2210, please leave a voicemail if she does not answer!**

- **Harvest Windows for Vegetables:**

	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Beans		x	x	x	
Beets	x	x	x	x	x
Broccoli		x		x	x
Brussel Sprouts				x	x
Cabbage		x	x	x	x
Carrots	x	x	x	x	x
Cauliflower				x	x
Celery			x	x	x
Chard	x	x	x	x	x
Cucumber		x	x	x	
Fennel	x	x	x	x	x
Garlic	x	x	x	x	x
Kale		x	x	x	x
Leeks			x	x	x
Lettuce	x	x	x	x	x
Melon			x	x	
Onion	x	x	x	x	x
Parsnips					x
Peas, Snap	x	x			
Peppers, sweet			x	x	x
Potato		x	x	x	x
Radish	x	x	x	x	x
Shallot				x	x
Spinach	x			x	x
Squash - summer		x	x	x	
Squash - Winter					x
Tomato, cherry		x	x	x	x
Tomato, heirloom		x	x	x	
Tomato, slicer		x	x	x	
Turnip	x	x		x	x

**Your Responsibilities as a member of Amy's Acre CSA Program**

- You are responsible for picking up your share each week from your host site. If you cannot pick up your share, you are responsible for finding someone to pick it up in your place.
- You are responsible for contacting Amy should any questions or issues arise.
- Eat your vegetables!

## **Vacation Policy**

It is fully understood and expected that you might take a vacation during the summertime. Do not let CSA guilt stop you from having a good time! You can do one of three things in the event of a vacation:

1. You may arrange for someone else to pick up your share in your place.
2. At your convenience, you may come to the farm and pick-up an equivalent value of produce from our roadside stand for no additional charge.
3. You can simply cancel your box for that week and continue with regular pick-ups at your site once you return. Canceled boxes do not include a refund for that week.

**Regardless of which option you choose, please email the farm at least a week in advance and communicate which option you would like to choose so we can plan accordingly.**

## **Refund/Cancellation Policy**

Participation in the Amy's Acre CSA program means you are taking an active role in the farm's production for the entire season. Refunds will not be issued after produce delivery has begun for the year. In the event of major crop losses, refunds will be issued to all members at the discretion of the farmer and financial ability of the business.

## **Communication**

Best ways to reach Amy:

Email: [amysacrelc@gmail.com](mailto:amysacrelc@gmail.com)

Phone (calls please): 414-323-2210

