

Rancocas Creek Farm ‘Picking Up Your Share’

Greetings and welcome to Rancocas Creek Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). We are honored to have you as a part of our third year and we look forward to getting to know you at our farm over the next 5 months! This document will provide you with information about the farm and the CSA, how it works, what you should bring and when etc. If you have any follow-up questions, please let us know at jeff@pinelandsalliance.org. Also, we will have staff on hand to offer farm tours and answer questions.

Rancocas Creek Farm is located at 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton, NJ 08088. We are a project of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and we share their driveway and parking lot. When you enter, drive to the end of the lot and you'll see the CSA parking area. Our distribution shed is right there by the hedgerow.

SHOP HOURS - You can come pick-up your share on **Tuesday from 10am-7pm -OR- Friday 9am-4pm**. Every Tuesday starts a new week so for instance, Week 1 you can come Tuesday June 6th or Friday June 9th. Week 2 is June 13th and 16th and so on. We do have weddings at the farm, so we are closed at 4pm on Friday and we are closed during the weekends.

WHAT IF I AM AWAY? If you are on vacation or unable to get your share for the week, you may send someone else to get it that week. Have them sign in for you and we will explain how the CSA works. We cannot save your share from week-to-week so please make arrangements for a family member or friend to pick it up if you cannot.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION - When you enter the farm shop, please check off your name for that week on our sign-in sheet. (There will be a sign in sheet for full shares and a different one for 10-week shares). The weekly share will be posted on a blackboard. Some items will be by the bunch, so you will see pre-made bunches of radishes or swiss chard or scallions etc. Other items might be by the ‘piece’ such as 2 heads of lettuce or 3 zucchini or 2 eggplant. And other items will be by weight - for instance a pound of spinach or loose-leaf lettuce. We will have a scale for you to weigh the item. If this sounds confusing, don't worry - it won't be once you see it in action! Our goal is to give you a healthy amount of our fresh produce while offering you some choices AND reducing waste by allowing you to **bring your own bags**. The last point is key. *Please bring a few shopping bags / produce bags / baskets to put your produce in.* And as always, one of our staff will be in the shop to answer your questions.

****If you have a physical disability and are unable to come to the farm shop to get your produce, please contact us and we will arrange to bring it to your car.****

U-PICK - Some of the crops will be ‘u-pick’; that is we provide you with containers and list the amounts you get and you pick the crops right from the field. These include peas, cherry tomatoes, flowers, some herbs etc. U-Pick Crops that are open will be flagged and labeled. We will provide some scissors for flowers and herbs but they tend to disappear sometimes so if you have a pair of scissors or shears you like please bring them! **If you are physically unable to do the u-pick, please let us know(via email please) and we will have the crops picked for you.** If you are interested in picking extra for someone who is physically unable to pick, please let us know.

*****U-PICK HOURS***** You can do your weekly u-pick during shop hours OR Monday – Thursday 9am-6pm. So if you come to get your share on Tuesday but it is raining or you don't have time to pick you can come back during those hours. Check the u-pick board for any changes if you come on an off-day.

WEEKLY EMAIL - You will receive a weekly CSA email every Monday to let you know what is in the share for the week. The email will include some news about the farm, upcoming events, recipes etc. If you are not receiving emails from us, please check your spam folder or contact us so we can get you to receive the emails.

FARM SHOP – Besides our fresh veggies, we offer some other products for sale such as organic farm t-shirts, cookbooks, salad dressing, stir-fry sauce, local, organic oats and more! We will also sell extra veggies if we have a surplus in a given week for those who want to stock up. We accept cash, check and most credit cards.

DOGS - Dogs will be allowed at the farm as long as they remain on a leash. Also, dogs are not permitted in the farm shop or inside the deer fence where the u-pick crops are so please plan accordingly and be sure to clean up after your dog.

COMPOST - We have a composting area at the farm so we would be happy to accept your compostables. These include biodegradable items like apple cores, coffee grounds, melon rinds, eggshells etc. Please make sure there are no plastic bags, plastic wrappers or anything non-biodegradable. When you dump your compostables, please cover them - woodchips and shovel provided!

PIGS - We have 12 heritage breed pigs on pasture at the farm. They are a short walk from the farm shop. Unlike most pigs raised in the USA, these pigs will live outside and get a substantial part of their diet from rooting in the pasture. In the fall we will have a pork sale for shareholders who are interested. Feel free to go visit the pigs and please note THEY ARE INSIDE AN ELECTRIC FENCE! So please don't touch the fence.

WATER - There is a sink behind the CSA barn if you need water for flowers, hand washing etc.

RESTROOMS – You may use the restrooms in our 'dairy barn' which we will point out when you come to the farm.

PPA VISITORS CENTER / GIFT SHOP - Feel free to visit PPAs gift shop located on the property and check out t-shirts, guidebooks, maps and more! Hours of operation are Tuesdays 10-5:30 and Fridays 10-4.

FEEDBACK - How are we doing? What can we do to make your CSA experience better? Let one of our staff know or send me an email to the address below. We value your thoughts!

Feel free to contact us with any questions 609-859-8860 x 130 or jeff@pinelandsalliance.org.

