

Birney's Miracle Farm CSA

We are contacting you because you expressed interest in the CSA that we are going to be starting this year. We realize that we are getting this information out a little later than we had planned, but we hope that you are still interested. Because of the delay we are going to have different deadlines for payments this year, than we will have in the future.

The CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) will be a 10 week program, starting as soon as we have a harvest, which will vary slightly every year based on the weather. With your membership you will be helping to support our farm, by giving us money upfront that will help with the inputs for the farm when we need them in the beginning of the season, and in return you will receive a basket of fresh, high quality vegetables every week for the 10 week period. If the season runs longer than 10 weeks, you will have the option to continue buying the baskets at the end of the season on a weekly basis. Another advantage to your membership is if there is a shortage of a certain crop, you will get it before we put it at the stand for sale. One other important factor to consider is that you will be sharing in the risk, as we will be. So if there is a crop loss of a particular crop, you will receive a different item that will make up for what was lost. The other shared risk is that if there are devastating weather events, we won't be able to offer a refund. The consensus among CSA participants is that the quality and convenience far outweighs the risk.

We have thought about what sizes and prices to offer on our baskets quite a bit, in order to keep our prices competitive with the low prices we offer at the stand. We have decided to offer a small (peck) basket, which is roughly 10lbs for \$15/week, and a large (1/2 bushel) basket which is roughly 20lbs for \$30/week. We feel the small basket would be enough to supply 1-2 people for the week, and a large basket would supply a family of 4 for the week. We realize that some items, such as sweet corn and melons, due to their weight, would take up most of the box, but we will make sure that you are getting your money's worth every week. The availability of certain items can't be guaranteed from week to week, but if there is a shortage of one item, it will be made up for with something else. We would also like to offer you the option to opt out of certain vegetables. When doing research on CSA's a lot of people liked getting new vegetables that they had never tried before, but at the same time, if it was something they didn't like, they didn't have the option to not receive it in their baskets. If there is a vegetable that you do not like, or have an allergy to, please let us know, and we will substitute it with something else. See attached list of what we will be growing this year. We will not be growing onions or potatoes this year, but if you wish to have them in your baskets, we can get them from another local farm so you don't have to go elsewhere to get them.

If you would like to sign up for this year's CSA, please fill out the form below. The first half of your payment will need to be made by May 1, and the second half by July 1. If you would like to sign up, but for some reason you can't make the payments by the due dates, please contact us and we will work out a different payment plan. Checks can be made payable to

Birney's Miracle Farm Market
4257 Watkins Rd SW
Pataskala, Oh 43062

Please print the application and the item selection list and fill them both out and mail them along with your check to the above address.

We will send out an email to all the members updating you on the progress as the season approaches, and letting you know approximately when you should receive your first basket. At this time we are planning on having Tuesdays be our pick up days from 10am-12pm and 4pm-7pm. If for some reason you can't pick up your baskets on that day, please let us know and we will make other arrangements. If you will be out of town one week, let us know and we will add a week onto the end of the season for you.

Thank you again for your interest in our CSA. We hope that you will sign up and partner with us in making 2015 our best season ever! If you have any questions please feel free to message us, or call 740-927-7750 and ask for Eric or Caren Conkey.

Eric and Caren Conkey
Birney's Miracle Farm Market