



2013

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
Membership Sign-up Form

Please read this application in its entirety.

Thank you!

If you are familiar with EverGreen Farm, our plans for this coming 2013 CSA season are very similar to how we operated in 2012 – which we believe was our best CSA season yet! With seven greenhouses, the use of new research and technologies in sustainable agriculture, and ten plus years of farming experience, we have what it takes to grow a bounty of produce in this beautiful mountain climate. If you are new to EverGreen Farm, please give us a call or refer to our website for more information.

WHO are *your* farmers? The Shain and Tara Saberon family have been growing produce on our 7-acre farm in Smoot, Wyoming since 2001. We are a small family farm operation that performs our own day-to-day labors with the help of a small crew of dedicated “Workshare” helpers. We are passionate about growing produce that tastes great, is clean and healthy, and of the highest quality.

WHAT is CSA? EverGreen Farm operates under the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model. In its simplest form, this is an arrangement between a farmer and an individual seeking fresh produce. Consumers receive a weekly “share” of produce by purchasing a membership before the season starts. This enables the farmer to cover operating costs, plan appropriately for the season, and then get back to focusing our efforts on growing and harvesting great food.

Another aspect of being a CSA member is “the essence of the relationship... [and] the mutual commitment: the farm feeds the people, the people support the farm and [both] share in the inherent risks and potential bounty” (*Sharing the Harvest*, page 3). CSA members receive more produce when a crop is plentiful or less in the event of a plant infestation or disease. Our history of crop failures has been limited. It is our experience that in any given year when one vegetable fails another does exceptionally well.

WHAT crops do we grow? Through years of experience (a lot of trial and error), with the aide of accelerated growing techniques (greenhouses, row covers, etc.), and by careful crop selection, we are able to grow approximately 30 varieties of vegetables and herbs. Due to the nature of organic farming and our challenging growing conditions, crop variety and quantity may vary. While it is possible that you could receive less of a certain item than you’d like, the feedback we’ve received from our CSA members is that they are very pleased with the variety and quantity of produce distributed throughout the season. You can refer to the weekly newsletters from previous seasons on our website to get an idea of the crops we grow and when they may be available.

WHERE is the food grown? All the food you receive with an EverGreen Farm CSA membership is grown *on our farm* in Smoot, Wyoming. We welcome you to come see how and where your food is grown.

WHEN is the food available? Our goal for the 2013 season is to start harvesting the first part of May and continue through mid October. We plan to grow plenty of food for a minimum of 20 produce shares over the six-month period. (There were 24 deliveries in 2012, 2011, & 2009, and 23 in 2010. The few extra deliveries made up for weeks in the season when the shares were small due to bad weather.) This plan gives us a few weeks of flexibility in the schedule in case of complications. *We also reserve the right to skip up to two deliveries at anytime during the season for family vacations.*

Please note: In years past, we've gone to great lengths to have food ready as early as possible and to harvest food as late as possible (in spite of weather conditions, decreased availability of workshares, and Shain working full time as a school teacher). We have decided to stop pushing ourselves so hard, mostly on the later end of the season, and to cut the CSA deliveries short by about two weeks. Instead of raising the price of our CSA membership (to cover increased farm costs), we will keep the price the same and no longer endeavor to start the first week of May or harvest to the end of October. That said, we imagine the CSA season will run about like it did in 2012 when the food was ready on May 9th and was gone by October 17th.

“When will the tomatoes be ready?” “Why can't we have spinach or mixed baby salad greens all season long?” In general, our philosophy is to grow crops in their proper season. For example, in May you will receive cold weather crops (greens like Mizuna and arugula) that grow well during the cooler months of spring. Then as warmer temperatures come, we start planting summer crops (tomatoes, beans, and squash). Summer is also when we start seeing bug infestations and therefore shift away from susceptible crops like salad greens. Some root crops can't be planted outside until the ground dries out, so they won't be ready until late summer or fall (though with greenhouses, we have quite the advantage). While we make incredible efforts to extend growing conditions, we are bound to certain limitations that are beyond our control.

WHY join a CSA? For many people the answer is taste, quality, and freshness. CSA memberships provide consumers access to food that is grown locally with natural and sustainable farming practices. It also helps protect and support the agricultural diversity and beauty of our communities and environment.

WHY choose EverGreen Farm? We consistently receive positive reviews and praise from our CSA members:

- “I want you to know that I have used all of the CSAs in the area and find your produce and pick up the best by far. The variety of veggies, length of the season, and weekly newsletters are above and beyond what the others offer.”
- “Thank you for all your hard work. The veggies are so clean, fresh and beautiful.”
- “Thank you, thank you, we eat so well when we have your produce and I love it.”
- “Overall, I really think you are doing a wonderful service and I was glad I had an opportunity to share in the benefits. I ate most of the full share by myself...”
- “[I] wanted to let you know one of the benefits I have noticed with EverGreen produce is that [it] lasts much longer. It makes me realize that the 'fresh' produce I bought at the grocery store was probably over a week old when I bought it. Keep up the good work.”
- The greatest benefit of belonging to your organization... We get the freshest, tastiest, most nutritious veggies available.”
- “Your packaging is terrific... It's amazing to get the food already cleaned! Wow.”
- “The variety you are able to provide boggles my mind. I love it...”

HOW we farm. We are strongly committed to practicing sustainable farming methods that we consider “beyond organic.” We strive to create the ultimate natural conditions in which microorganisms, plants, insects, animals, and humans symbiotically interact in harmony and balance. For example, we rotate vegetable crops, add soil amendments as needed, grow green manures, pasture animals, and make and spread compost in our gardens and greenhouses to create “super soils.” In turn, these fertile grounds grow nutrient dense food crops, vegetables packed with both flavor and nutrition. Each year we buy only the highest quality seed varieties available (buying organic whenever possible) and never purchase from suppliers who sell seeds that are genetically modified or not grown naturally.

DETAILS: There are a limited number of farm memberships available for purchase. Shares will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Membership availability will be updated on our website and a final notice will indicate when the maximum limit has been reached. We encourage you to sign up ASAP.

COST of a 2013 membership is \$550. A minimum payment of \$200 will reserve your membership. The remaining \$350 is due by April 1, 2013. *All membership fees are non-refundable.*

SIZE: The amount of produce in a weekly “share” is what a medium sized family might consume, keeping outside vegetable purchases to a minimum. A share may also be appropriate for one or two adults who are determined to eat a lot of vegetables. The first deliveries of the season consist of only a few items, but as the season progresses, more produce will be available. Again, you may wish to refer to the newsletters from previous seasons on our website to get a better idea of what you can expect to receive from week to week throughout the season.

We do not sell “half-shares”; however, a CSA share may be split. In such cases, all arrangements (such as how to divide the cost, who picks up the food, and how the produce is allotted) are to be made directly between the joined parties. We have endorsed this method of splitting shares for several years with good success and only the occasional complication. If you are interested in splitting a share with someone, please consider the following:

- *Every effort needs to be made to ensure only one person picks up the weekly share. When both parties pick up a share, you are actually taking two shares, leaving someone without their food and a farmer scrambling to remedy the situation.*
- Do you really want to *split* a share? It is not uncommon for us to hear, “I wish I would have known how great all this produce is. I don’t want to share it!”
- To prevent any frustrations, please discuss how you will split the food. Occasionally you will receive a single cucumber, zucchini, cabbage, etc. in your share. Will you cut it in half or rotate who gets such items from week to week?
- There will be the occasion when a produce delivery is small. Please realize it will be even smaller when it is shared.

PICK UP: Members are responsible for picking up their produce at one of our designated locations (the home of a CSA member) in Smoot, Afton, Alpine, and Jackson. If you are unable to pick up your share within our designated time frame, you may make alternate arrangements for the produce. Any remaining food will be donated at our discretion. Deliveries will be made on Wednesday late afternoon/evening. As in year’s past, your food will be left in heavy-duty coolers and available to pick up over a few days time. (For highest quality, we recommend it be picked up as soon as possible.)

COMMUNICATION: Please read our emails and newsletters. These are the methods we use to communicate important announcements and provide other general information. With each food delivery you will receive an email reminder and link to a newsletter on our website. The newsletters will include a list of the items in your share each week, ideas for eating, preparing, and storing the food, and news and pictures from our farm. Our website contains years of collected recipes and newsletters, pictures, and tips from previous seasons.

WORKSHARES: The amount of food we grow each year is directly impacted by the amount of support we get from our community – thus the phrase *Community Supported Agriculture*. EverGreen Farm is seeking individuals who are interested in working on the farm 4 to 5 hours each week in lieu of paying for a CSA membership - plus you’ll get a lot of other perks like extra food, learn how to grow food in this climate, time spent out of doors and in contact with mother nature, making new friends, engaging in interesting conversations, and having a knowledge that you are doing a great service by helping provide clean, healthy food to members of your local community. Please contact us for more information.

HELPING HAND: A few years ago, EverGreen Farm started the practice of donating a CSA share to a family in need within our local community. This family is carefully chosen based on financial need and their desire and commitment to making healthy life style choices (such as eating all the produce in a weekly CSA share). We invite you to participate in this mission by giving a little extra with your membership payment. It is our hope that with enough donations we can expand this worthy endeavor. All donations are welcome, in any amount, and will remain 100% anonymous. All donations received will be put towards giving food to those in need.



2013 CSA Membership Sign-up Form

Please complete this page and mail with your payment

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Do you check this email on a daily basis? Yes or No If not, how often? _____

I would like to pick up my produce in: Smoot Afton Alpine Jackson (circle one)

_____ No, I will *not* be splitting this share.

_____ Yes, I am splitting this share with: _____

Sign-up forms are needed from both parties splitting this share. The forms can be mailed in together or separately.

I am sending a payment of \$ _____ at this time. I owe an additional \$ _____ which I will pay by April 1, 2013, for a total of \$550.

I wish to donate an extra \$ _____ towards feeding a family in need as chosen by EverGreen Farm.
(Please don't feel pressured to do this. We realize that coming up with a CSA payment may be stretching some wallets thin as it is.)