



2030 S. Edison Rd, Yoder, Colorado 80864
719-439-2054 jason@grayareafarm.com

Gray Area Farm
Community Supported Agriculture Vegetable Share Program
Membership Agreement
2016 Veggie Main Season CSA

We ask all new members to carefully read this document and then sign and return when finished before receiving their first share box. This will help our CSA program run smoothly. Let's make sure everyone's expectations are met so we can all eat really well while supporting local food in our community!

The Spirit of Our CSA Program

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. Interested consumers purchase a share in advance (aka a "membership" or a "subscription") and in return receive a box (bag, basket) of seasonal produce each week throughout the farming season.

There are numerous benefits to both the farm and the members. Many members of CSAs across the country report that they reconnect with "real food" and their health and well-being improves. It gives an opportunity for the farm to foster a relationship with their members and an up-front cash flow at the beginning of the season to purchase seeds, infrastructure and materials.

Members get first dibs on extremely fresh, local, organic style produce; small farmers know they can survive and build their farms for a year without debt or government subsidies. It's a win-win!

We do not source produce from other farms or commercial distribution. What you eat is what we grow.

Shared Risk / Shared Reward

The Gray Area Farm CSA Program is a shared risk / shared reward program.

THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTANDING CSA PROGRAMS.

Shared Risk:

We do not guarantee a certain amount of produce or number of varieties each week. We promise to do our best to provide you with a bountiful share each week. The quantity and quality of produce, however, may vary from week to week due to weather, insects or other production factors despite our best efforts. We will be using netting, insect fabric, and hail guards to protect our crops. However, this

is Colorado. A massive storm, insect or mammal damage, tornado, hail larger than the fabric and hail guards can handle, prairie fire, or any number of things can occur that can or eventually will cause crop failure.

If only a small portion of crops fail, we compensate for the failed crops by filling your share with other crops grown on the farm that are ready for harvest at the time. (Ie, CSA share members have “first dibs” on our crops before a la carte sales, farmers markets or gift baskets.)

If a large portion of crops fail, we may not be able to deliver any product in some weeks.

Shared Reward:

In addition to our CSA, our farm sells to farmers markets, a la carte local sales, gift baskets and other distribution lines. We segregate our production for the CSA by allocating plantings. We use staggered planting dates and varieties that grow at varying rates to make sure you have a steady stream of staple crops. When production of our CSA crops are especially abundant, we pack as much as possible into your share. We will let you know in our blog or social channels if we're having an especially large harvest of a certain crop coming in a week so you can plan ahead for preserving or recipes.

If at our discretion we determine that it's not feasible to deliver a full share of an unusually abundant harvest to each member, we will email you to see if you would prefer to donate extreme surplus to local food banks or offer it to other members. Some members of CSAs are just as disappointed to receive a sudden wheelbarrow load of bok choy as they are when a storm wipes out a share completely.

Picking Up Shares

You are responsible for picking up your shares each week from your drop site or arranging for door delivery in advance. Members must choose which drop site or delivery date they want to use at the beginning of the season for harvest planning purposes.

Please return last week's box, ice packs or other reusable items each week so we can re-use the share boxes. Or you can bring your own bags and leave the box with us. Please be respectful of our property and the pick up sites, and follow any posted parking rules.

Falcon: Fridays 8:15 am – 9:45 am (PEPNet Members Only)
PEPNet meeting at La Mission Mexican Restaurant
7634 McLaughlin Rd, Falcon, CO 80831

Fridays 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Shops at Woodmen Hills
7634 McLaughlin Rd, Falcon, CO 80831

Door delivery for Eastern Colorado Springs and Unincorporated El Paso County shortly after 12:00 pm Fridays, or earlier if no members are scheduled for the 10 am – 12 pm pickup.

Colorado Springs:

Sundays 10:15 am – 11:15 am (Church members only, please)
St Mary Cathedral
22 W. Kiowa, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Door delivery for most of Colorado Springs shortly after 11:30 am Sundays.

Yoder on-farm pickup:

Fridays 1:30 pm – 3:20 pm; 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Gray Area Farm

2030 S. Edison Rd, Yoder, CO 80864

Door Delivery

Delivery to your door at the times above is available for \$4.00 per share per week. This nominal fee covers gas and time away from the farm. We may – at our discretion – include a returnable ice pack to help maintain freshness during warm weather. We are not responsible for excessive wilting or other freshness issues if the share is not brought inside for a long time. We are not responsible for theft. Please be aware that “Porch Pirates” are common in El Paso County.

Canceling / Redirecting Shares

If you cannot pick-up your share or will be unable to receive it with door delivery (vacation, etc), you must arrange for another person to pick it up or receive delivery. Please let us know at least 24 hours in advance. Please make sure your substitute understands the pick-up procedure or the importance of bringing the food inside soon for door delivery. If you choose not to find a substitute, we can donate the food to a local charity or offer to other members.

We take the safety of your food seriously. Food is washed and cooled immediately after harvest on our farm. Portions of shares that require refrigeration are transported in coolers or in climate controlled portion of our vehicles. For your added protection, wash all produce before eating and put refrigerated produce in the refrigerator as soon as possible.

We grow non-'factory farm' varieties of produce that do not store and transport as well as the varieties you find in grocery stores. You're trading better taste and nutrition for shorter shelf life. Please plan on enjoying or preserving our produce soon after delivery.

Member Fees

By selling membership in advance of the growing season, CSA reduces the burden of up-front costs for the farmer. Your membership fees provide us with money to purchase seed and equipment before the season starts, and we appreciate your commitment.

We currently offer one CSA share program:

The full-share Veggie Main Season CSA.

Price: \$200 1st year pricing

Payment timing: Due before first share delivery date

Notes: This rate is for the 1st year only. 1st year members will have rights to reduced rates on future years, but future years **will** be higher rates. No price-lock guarantee here.

Please enclose a check for the total amount due, made payable to Jason Gray with this signed agreement form. By submitting an agreement form, you are agreeing to pay the membership fee for the share you indicate above.

Membership fees are non-refundable. CSA programs, by definition, have risks of crop failure. Shortened seasons due to weather are part of this risk, and an early killing frost will end the season

early without pro-rated refunds.

Memberships are transferable. If you want to end your participation mid-season or split the season with another person, you may do so with 1 week notice to the farm. We reserve the right to approve or deny membership transfers.

Program Timing and Items Expected

Mother Nature sets the start dates and end dates of our harvest. The 2016 Veggie Main Season CSA will begin deliveries in late May and continue until the first killing frost in late September / early October. We will let you know one week in advance of the first delivery date.

Crops being planted for the 2016 season include (but not limited to, and varieties not guaranteed)

Bush, pole and soy beans	Beets, Parsnips, Radish	Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes
Sweet and hot peppers	Tomatoes (beefsteak, cherry, roma)	Salad mix: Lettuce, Spinach, Kale, Arugula, Swiss Chard
Broccoli	Melons, Cucumbers	Culinary herbs (dill, sage, basil, etc)
Onions (green bunching and bulb)	Sweet Corn	Microgreens, select flowers

Check our website for a full list and expected share week dates for each. Not every crop will be available year round. While we use season-extending techniques, in real local food you learn to eat “in-season.”

Our Growing Practices

Gray Area Farm is an organic-method, regenerative agriculture farm and homestead project. We follow practices taken from the regenerative agriculture and permaculture movements as well as USDA and University of Colorado Extension organic practices. We are not currently organic certified and have no plans to become USDA organic certified. We believe in open transparency in the food production process and encourage members to come to our Farm Days and follow our social channels to see directly how we grow your food.

We do not use transgenic GMO seed or treated seed, and we will use certified-organic seed and heirloom varieties when available. We do not use herbicides or fungicides. We use natural integrated pest control methods including neem oil, diatomaceous earth, beneficial insects, traps, and old fashioned elbow grease. We are not aware of any potential overspray issues from neighboring properties. We have not found any evidence of historical use of pervasive agricultural chemicals on the property.

How to Communicate With Us

The best way to communicate with us is via email or social media direct message. Our email is jason@grayareafarm.com. 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. Please contact us with any news of the following: changes to your postal or email address, changes to your drop-site location, problems with your drop-site, or dissatisfaction with your share.

We will communicate with you by email. When you sign up, you will be added to our distribution list.

Please read your email from us. We depend on being able to communicate important information such as necessary changes to your distribution schedule or to our farm events. Every week, we will email an update giving you information about the crops available that week or month, recipe ideas, or other farm related news. These will also be posted to our website and on our social media channels.

By signing below, I agree to purchase the membership share indicated. I understand that, although unlikely, the farm may change parts of this agreement related to production and 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: _____