

Blackberry Pond Farm CSA

Welcome to our Farm Family! We are looking forward to being your local food provider this spring! We are passionate about growing delicious vegetables for the people we care about AND we love teaching you how to eat them!! Our hope is that you will not only love eating our vegetables but you'll become more connected to us, your local farm family.

BECOMING A MEMBER OF Blackberry Pond Farm CSA

Thank you all so much for becoming a part of our CSA for the spring 2022 season and sharing in our farm journey. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a beautiful partnership in which members pledge to help cover the anticipated costs of the farm's production for a growing season, and in return receive a portion of the farm's crops over the period of time specified in the agreement. Rather than simply purchasing food at a store or market, as a *member* of Blackberry Pond Farm CSA, you receive so many benefits!

- a portion (or a “share”) of the farm’s harvest,
 - the chance to invest in your local agricultural economy,
 - the knowledge of how and where your food is grown,
 - a strong relationship with your farmers
 - lots of education on how to eat with the seasons and enjoy our produce, and recipes that utilize our produce
 - the opportunity to come visit our farm and connect with the land.
- Thank you for the effort to commit to this relationship with us. We are tremendously grateful to be a part of your fall and your family. Our CSA runs for ten weeks from March 24 through May 28

ORGANIC AND GAP CERTIFICATION

In January 2022, we were certified organic by the USDA. No pesticides or herbicides are ever used. We are also GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certified by the USDA since

December 11, 2020. GAP certification means we have standard operating procedures and safety measures in place to reduce the incidence and transmission of food borne illness. Most of our produce is grown hydroponically or in raised beds with drip irrigation. If you have any questions about how we grow our food, we invite you to contact us. We are happy to give you a tour and talk transparently about how we grow your food.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISK OF CSA

As a member, you share in the abundance of our harvest, as well as in the risks that come with farming. We cannot stress this part enough! Although we have learned how to avoid or manage around most problems, it is likely that EVERY year, Mother Nature will throw us a curve-ball, and we may lose a crop to drought, flooding, disease, bugs, hail, or other acts of God. This may mean that you will not receive that particular affected crop for that season.

If this occurs, we will do our best to make up for the value of the share by substituting something else in its place. Another option is to make up the value of your share on the back end of the season as we attempt to quickly plant “quick-turn” crops to recoup our losses. We will communicate regularly to keep you informed of our Plan B, and we ask that you be patient with us as we do our best to mitigate the consequences.

WHAT’S IN THE BOX?

Your weekly box is fully customizable each week by using your electronic wallet credit in our online store. You may also purchase additional items over and above your credit as needed during the season. We do limit your purchase to no more than \$50/week.

Buttercrunch Lettuce and choice of Micro-greens (Broccoli or Radish) remain the core items available most weeks in the online store. Currently, we have planted a wide variety of herbs (cilantro, basil, chives, oregano, parsley, thyme, tarragon, rosemary, sage, sorrel), romaine lettuce, kale, spinach, Swiss chard, radishes, leeks, tomatoes, peppers (bell, lava and jalapeño), cucumbers, bok choy, Napa Cabbage, beets, carrots, turnips, broccoli, broccoli rabe, kohlrabi, cauliflower, cabbage. If there is something, you would like to see us grow, just ask.

ONLINE BOX CUSTOMIZATION

Our CSA Subscribers now have the ability to fully customize the weekly boxes using our website by logging in with your individual email and password. This is another benefit to our CSA and something that sets us apart.

If you have pre-paid for delivery, please add **Pre-paid delivery** to your weekly order. If you will be picking up your order, please add either **Pick up at the farm** or **Pick up at Dresden Farmer's Market**. Please enter your pick up day and time at the farm in the notes section.

If no customization order has been placed or we have not heard from you by 7 pm Wednesday, then you will receive the standard box for the week.

DELIVERY

Delivery occurs on Thursday of each week. Obion and Union City is in the morning 9-12. Martin is 12-2. Weakley county is 230pm-6pm. You do not need to be home, just let us know where you would like your box placed (a shady spot with a basket or box in which to place the box contents or an ice chest with ice pack on hot days is preferred). If you will be out of town for delivery, you can gift your box to someone in our delivery area or we can donate contents to local food bank.

PICK UPS

Pick ups occur at 153 UT Farm Road, Martin, TN on Friday or Saturday and at the Dresden Farmers Market on Saturday mornings. There are 2 large patio boxes labeled "CSA" and "BOX" at our mailbox on the right as you drive past the UT Beef cattle teaching farm that your box will be placed in for pick up 30 minutes before your requested pick up time. Each week, we will ask you select your pick up time on the website when you customize your box. Alternatively, you can email us your requested pick up time for that week. If you will be out of town, you can have someone else pick up your box or we can donate it to the local food pantry. Please note that the farm is a gated property with dogs. Do not drive down road to the farm unless requested or scheduled, as there is no turnaround and dogs may bite if they do not know you.

RECYCLING

We provide sturdy recycled plastic reusable crop boxes for a \$10 deposit for 2 boxes to swap out each week. Please help us keep costs low by returning your box for reuse or transferring your box contents to a bin or box of your own and leaving ours in pick up

box. Our plastic clamshells can be recycled at your local recycling center or you can return them and we will take them to the recycling center.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need to reach us, we prefer you email us at blackberrypondfarm@gmail.com If it is an emergency, or you will be late to your pickup, please call our cell phones.

PUT THESE IN YOUR CELL PHONE CONTACT LIST:

Chelsea's cell phone: (425) 399-1209 (Box content or quality issues)

Sue's cell phone: (901) 826-4234 (Contact about anything)

James's cell phone: (901) 496-7049 (when you cannot reach Sue)

WHAT IF I GO ON VACATION? WHAT HAPPENS TO MY BOX?

We do not hold your box for you or credit your account or double-up on boxes later. But you have a few options:

- 1. Send a substitute in your place.** Find a friend to take your share for you and either store it until you return OR eat it themselves! It's a great way to expose others to our CSA.
- 2. Let it flow into our Local Food Bank.** If you do not show up in time, your box will automatically be donated to the local food bank.
- 3. Ask us to hold your box at the farm for 2 days.** We won't hold your box for any longer than that, as we do not have the storage. We'll label your box with your name. You can schedule a time to come to the farm to pick up your box.

CAN I TRANSFER MY MEMBERSHIP TO SOMEONE ELSE?

Yes. Simply contact Sue via email and let us know who will be taking over your membership. We can work out the payment details. The new member can reimburse you for the remaining shares.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT'S IN MY BOX EACH WEEK?

- 1. Each Monday, we will email you the contents of your box for that week. You can also access the online store on webpage to see what is available that week. This list is usually about 99% accurate, but there are sometimes changes, since Mother Nature is fickle and we may not always have exactly enough of the**

same crop for everyone. This causes us to sometimes make adjustments. We do our best to keep things fair and give you a premium item later to make up for it.

2. If you need to know more about something in your box or what to do with it, text Sue (901) 826-4234 or email us at blackberrypondfarm@gmail.com We try to send a “veggies of the week” sheet at the beginning of the season and with new items. This will give you storage tips and recipe ideas. If this is left out or you need to ask a question, just ask. We want you to be successful as a member of the CSA.

HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU:

Our primary form of communication with members is via EMAIL: We expect you to check your email inbox every week. Please be sure to “whitelist” our emails so we don’t end up in your SPAM folder. (For Gmail, drag one of our emails into your primary tab. For other email providers, just add our address to your address book).

blackberrypondfarm@gmail.com

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Website: blackberrypondfarm.com

Facebook: Follow us at <http://www.facebook.com/blackberrypondfarm>

Instagram: [@blackberrypondfarm](https://www.instagram.com/blackberrypondfarm)

PAYMENT POLICIES

How do I pay for my CSA share?

You can pay via Venmo, PayPal, CashApp, Cash, ACH bank check. We also can accept credit cards via Square, PayPal and on our website.

Where to Send Your CSA Balance Payment

Full payment is due by Friday, March 4, 2022 .

What happens if I don't pay my membership fee?

Membership fees must be paid by March 4, 2022. No shares will be distributed until payment is received. If payment has not been made by the time our CSA starts, we will consider this agreement null and void, and your membership will be cancelled.

HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE:

By accepting this member agreement, the member hereby releases, indemnifies, and agrees to hold harmless Blackberry Pond Farm, its agents and employees from any and all claims and/or liability from being on the farm property, being at any of the CSA pickup locations, from the purchase of a CSA membership or the use or consumption of food provided by the farm.

Blackberry Pond Farm reserves the right to change parts of this Agreement/Handbook related to production and distribution from time to time. We will contact our members via email to notify them in advance of any changes to the agreement.