

Kettle Pond Farm CSA: Information, Procedures, and Policies

THE FARM

Kettle Pond Farm Inc. has a mission to educate members of the community and provide resources for the promotion of sustainable local food systems, and the preservation of open space for future generations in rural Massachusetts. In assessing our attempts to achieve sustainability our activities must be economically feasible, ecologically viable, and environmentally favorable to improving the quality of human food consumption. To this end, we make no use of pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers, or artificial food preservatives. We hold ourselves accountable for meeting or exceeding the standards of qualification as a certified organic farm through Bay State Organic Certifiers. As such, we make no use of *genetically modified organisms* (also known as GMO's). KPF's efforts range from the exciting challenge of getting our members to try new veggies to offering environmentally focused educational programs for members, donors, community volunteers, and interns. A major facet of our focus on education is our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, which we operate on 2 plus acres of the old 35-acre homestead of Olga and Marcus Houtzager. The strength of our CSA operation is a committed core of member support, whose common interest is achieving better health through improving the quality of the natural food chain.

CSA: WHAT WE OFFER TO OUR MEMBERS

In 2012, we are offering summer membership to 40 members and spring and fall memberships to 20 members. Our goal is not solely to provide fresh and nutritious vegetables, but also to foster a core community. It is essential for our members to understand along with receiving fresh vegetables, they are also supporting a small, diversified, organic farm in its efforts to survive the current economic and political landscape. At KPF we believe that individuals should have the freedom to choose healthy, chemical free, GMO free, nutrient dense, and local food. We hope our members will view themselves as part of a community that supports this right.

This year we intend to distribute vegetables approximately 6 weeks in the spring, 20 weeks in the summer, and for a time period in the fall as well. We expect to begin spring distributions in early May, summer distributions in mid-June, and fall distributions in late October. The exact dates will be decided as the season approaches and we are given Mother Nature's approval. For the 2012 season we are offering full, partial and work-shares. For anyone who wishes to help us financially without participating in the food-share program, a "Friend-of-KPF" membership is available. Members and donors at all levels who provide us with an e-mail address will receive our newsletter.

We ask for payments up front so that we can purchase seeds, compost, soil amendments, and equipment and supplies for the upcoming season, and so that we can ensure a fair wage for our farmers. As a result, we are unable to refund any payments once the season has started. Thank you for your understanding.

CSA MEMBERSHIPS

Season	Duration	Contribution		Shares available	
Spring (May-June)	6 weeks	\$150		20	
Summer (June-October)	20 weeks	Full \$600	Part \$400	Full 30	Part 10
Fall (October-December)	6 weeks	TBD		TBD	

Please contact Kelly via kettlepondfarm@gmail.com or at (508) 822- 6919 if you are interested in a work-share, to be a friend-of Kettle Pond Farm, or if you have any questions about other share options.

DISTRIBUTION

Veggie distributions will take place at the farm in the bottom of the big red barn located behind the farmhouse. Members pick-up once a week on Monday or Thursday from 3-7 PM, Rain or Shine (spring and fall pickups are Thursday only). The food-shares are harvested in the morning of each pick-up day to provide our members with the freshest produce we can. As a result, we ask that our members be mindful of pick-up

times and days. Oftentimes, we may not be finished harvesting until just before 3 PM. Likewise, we ask you to please stick with your pick-up day since we plan our harvest based on how many shares will be picked up each day. If you know that you will not be able to come on a certain day, you can send someone else in your place (please give them instructions). If no one is able to come, please let us know prior to your pick-up day so we don't harvest extra and have it go to waste. We do not have extra time to rearrange pick-up days. We apologize for any inconvenience, but we cannot grant any exceptions and appreciate your understanding. If you can't come on your pick-up day, produce will be saved for up to two days. However, we have limited storage space so please respect your pick-up day and our hard work.

When you arrive in the pick-up area your vegetables will be arranged on trays. Instructions on what to take will be provided and a member of the KPF team will be around to help you gather your produce and answer any questions. Please remember to bring your own bag(s) as it is important that members take home produce that is in good condition. Please be mindful of this as you are collecting your share and handle the produce delicately. If there is a vegetable with which you are unfamiliar, please ask us for tips in preparing it. If there is a vegetable you know your family does not enjoy, you can give your portion to another CSA member who is present or you can leave it in the exchange basket. If there are other vegetables in the basket, you can help yourself to an equal portion of something you would enjoy more.

PARKING

Parking is available on the right side of the driveway as you enter the farm. We prefer that you avoid driving around the house, but if there is a need to do so, cars may exit out the access way next to the barn. Please avoid parking on 42nd St. Also, please be careful when pulling out of the driveway as visibility may be a concern, and pulling out at an angle seems to work best.

COMMUNICATION

We are very busy bees during the season, which means we rely heavily on e-mail to communicate with members. It is very important that you check your e-mail regularly during the season in order to find out about the week's harvest, up-coming events, volunteer opportunities and other time sensitive information. Likewise, please understand that we don't have the opportunity to check voice-mail during the day. In order to keep you informed, we will be sending you weekly e-mails to tell you what you can expect in your food-share and more in-depth newsletters every few weeks.

FARM ETIQUETTE

Kettle Pond Farm is a great place to explore and learn about organic agriculture, sustainability and healthy living. It is also a great place to learn about respect, patience and boundaries. We welcome you to explore while you are here; however, please remember that this is a working farm. If you would like to visit the fields, it is important to keep your footsteps in the aisles and not walk on the beds we have built up for our crops. We all want the plants to grow well, and be productive, so please treat them lovingly. If we have animals, and you would like to visit them, please do! However, be respectful of them as you are visiting their home. Also, for everyone's safety, please stay away from all the farm equipment. Thank you!

MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the farm or learning more about organic farming, come volunteer with us! Working outside is fun and rewarding, plus it is a great opportunity to learn about how we care for your veggies. We are looking for members to help out with distribution as well as fieldwork (planting, weeding, harvesting, etc.). This season, volunteer hours will be Monday and Thursday from 8-2 for harvest and field work, and 3-7 for distribution. Other arrangements can be made for those members who really want to be involved but are unable to make Mondays or Thursdays work in their schedule. Likewise, if you are interested in a work-share, please have a conversation with us, and we'll see what we can work out!