



# Pitchfork & Crow Winter CSA Handbook - 2019/2020

## Welcome to the 2019/2020 Pitchfork & Crow Winter CSA!

We're set to begin the seventh season of the Pitchfork & Crow Winter CSA! We're excited you've decided to join us for this winter of eating local, seasonal, organic vegetables. We're doing everything we can to ensure a successful CSA season. Winter is the most unpredictable season for local eating primarily given the unknowns of the weather. Luckily we have a good supply of storage crops and several field houses full of food to get us through. However, now that you've committed to the Winter CSA you should know you are the most intrepid of seasonal eater! Thanks for choosing to eat locally and seasonally with us this Winter!

*Please read through the information below for important CSA-related details and keep it handy for future reference.*

**Your farmers - Carri & Jeff**

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## **1 When does the CSA begin and end?**

The first 2019/2020 Winter CSA Salem pick-up day is Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> and the first on-farm pick-up day is Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>. The CSA will include 10 bi-weekly pick-ups and end on April 21st/22nd.

## **2 Picking up your box – How it works**

*Please bring your own bags, box, or basket for taking home your veggies. We'll have bags available if you forget, but you won't want to forget.*

Both pick-up locations are set up in a 'market-style' and it will appear as though you're entering a farmers market booth. Instead of prices, each bin of vegetables has a quantity noted, this is the number of items you'll take from that bin. Shares are not pre-packed, but instead you get to choose your vegetables from each bin available based on the quantity listed.

When you arrive at your pick-up location:

1. Locate the check-in sheet and mark your name off so we know your share has been picked-up.
2. Begin selecting vegetables from each bin available according to the quantity listed on the signage posted. *We'll put the heavier items first and the lighter items at the end to help with bagging.*
3. Decide if you'd like to swap any items or leave items behind in the Swap Box at the end of the line for other members.

## **3 I split a share. How does that work?**

Members who split a single share can decide together how they want to divide the pick-up duties. Some splitting members pick-up the whole share every other week, opposite weeks from their splitting partners. Other splitting members pick-up the whole share and divide it in half each week, either dropping off the second half themselves or leaving the second half in bins we provide for the splitting partners to pick-up later during the pick-up window. Either way, you'll want to discuss this ahead of time and have a plan in place. It's also helpful to know how your splitting partner expects vegetables to be divided and if there are vegetables they like a lot or not so much.

## **4 What vegetables are you growing this season?**

You can find a 2019/2020 Projected P&C Winter CSA Harvest Calendar on our website (<https://pitchforkcrow.files.wordpress.com/2019/11/winter-harvest-calendar-2019.pdf>).

This calendar lists the number of times we expect to harvest each crop per month throughout the season.

You can also see a list of vegetables we hope to harvest by month on the CSA member app site (<https://pitchforkandcrowcsa.herokuapp.com/>). Look under Products, then Harvest Calendar and then choose a month for the full list.

## **5 Are you growing anything new this season?**

After so many years of doing this, we've pretty well narrowed down the list of crops to what we know we'll have success with. If you've checked out the Projected Harvest Calendar mentioned above, you'll see some 45+ crops listed! Whoa! We do try out new varieties of vegetables each year though.

This season we tried our hand at sweet potatoes again and managed to grow enough that hopefully you'll see them once or twice this season. We also added some new hot peppers this past season, including a Thai chile that is currently drying in the barn for future chile powder. Other new varieties include a red potato with strikingly white flesh called Strawberry Paw, a couple of new garlic varieties, and a new long-storing winter squash called Tetsukabuto that's a cross between a kabocha and a butternut.

## **6 Do I get to pick out what I want each week for my share?**

Yes, and no. Each share consists of the same basic contents but you will get to choose within each vegetable category. For instance one week everyone might get cabbage, but you get to choose the size that will best fit your needs from those available.

Note that there is also Swap Box at the end of the vegetable line where you can swap out vegetables you're unlikely to use that week for more of something else.

## **7 How will I know what's in my share each week?**

A sample share photo and list of that week's vegetables are posted at the beginning of each weekly CSA newsletter on our farm blog. A link to the weekly post will be included in the CSA member email sent out Tuesday afternoon.

*\*Note that although we'd love to get you a list sooner, we often don't know the exact share contents until this photo is taken on Tuesday afternoon just after the harvest is complete.*

## **8 Where and when do I pick up my share each week?**

**Salem:** Tuesday 4-6pm in the parking lot of the Mission Mill Museum at the Willamette Heritage Center, 1313 Mill St SE Salem, OR.

**Lebanon:** Wednesday 4-6pm at the farm, 34077 Santiam Hwy Lebanon, OR.

## **9 Is everything in my share certified organic? Is everything grown by P&C?**

All of the vegetables and fruit you receive that we've grown are USDA certified organic by Oregon Tilth. We very rarely supplement the share with an item from another farm and we'll be sure to let you know if it is grown somewhere else and if it is not also certified organic.

## **10 What if I'm going to be out of town and need to skip a week?**

If you know you're going to miss a week we suggest you send a friend in your place. This is an excellent opportunity to introduce other people to the CSA! With some notice we've also occasionally kept a share for a member in our walk-in cooler until the next week's pick-up and most items were still fresh enough to take home.

Please shoot us an email if you know you're going to miss a pick-up at [farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com](mailto:farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com).

## **11 What if I forget to pick-up my share? Can I get it later?**

If you contact us within 24 hours of the pick-up we will keep your share in our walk-in cooler and you can arrange a time to pick-up at the farm later in the week. *If you fail to contact us within 24 hours of a pick-up your share will be forfeited.*

*Salem members can come to the farm during the on-farm pick-up Wednesday evening from 4-6pm if you miss the Salem pick-up Tuesday. Please give us a heads up so we know to expect you and have enough vegetables available.*

Feel free to email [farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com](mailto:farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com) or text/call Carri at 503-999-7918 if you miss your pick-up.

## **12 Can I send someone else to pick up my share?**

Yes! If there's any reason you're not going to make it to the pick-up, send a friend in your place to either store the produce for you or use it themselves. Just have them check-in with us when they arrive at the pick-up and we'll help them through the process.

## **13 I chose the 2-payment option. How do I pay for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of my CSA share?**

If you chose the 2-payment option at sign-up you can pay your second payment anytime before February 1st. The second payment will be \$200 if you paid for half of your share at sign-up.

You can bring a check or cash to a pick-up. You can also mail us a check or have your bank mail us a check to our mailbox in town: Pitchfork & Crow 20 E Airport Rd #289, Lebanon, OR 97355.

Finally, if you'd like to use a debit or credit card you can pay via our website at: <https://pitchforkandcrow.com/csa-payments/>. *Note that you can pay with cash or a check to avoid the card processing fees associated with the online payment option.*

## **14 Do you take credit cards?**

Yes, we do take credit cards. You can pay using a card here: <https://pitchforkandcrow.com/csa-payments/>.

*Please note that this option is more expensive due to the card processing fee. You can avoid this fee by paying with a check or cash.*

## **15 What are the risks of joining your CSA?**

As a CSA member, you share in the bounty of good harvests and the many risks associated with farming for this season. The diversity of the crops we grow generally results in full shares throughout the season. However, some variables, such as weather and pest pressure, may lead to some crop failure resulting in less of that crop showing up in shares. This is an important part of the CSA model! Know that we are doing everything we can to ensure a bountiful and diverse season of organic vegetables are headed your way!

## **16 How will you communicate with me during the season?**

We'll email you each week as a reminder with a link to that week's farm newsletter and other important member information. We'll also include details on farm events, bulk purchase options, and other member-only information in these short emails.

Please make sure you're receiving our emails correctly 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, add our email to your address list.)

Of course the weekly newsletters on the farm blog are also a form of communication so you can keep up with what's going on on the farm. And we'll be at every pick-up so you can ask questions and check-in there too.

## **17 How do I know what to do with the veggies you give me?**

- We'll include tips within the list of vegetables available at the top of each week's newsletter post.
- We'll also include relevant recipes at the bottom of each week's newsletter post.
- If you're stumped regarding a specific vegetable we suggest looking it up on the CSA member app site (<https://pitchforkandcrowcsa.herokuapp.com/>). You'll find storage information, recipes, and more there.
- Also, don't forget to browse the recipes on our website that are sorted by vegetable (<https://pitchforkandcrow.com/recipes/>).
- Check in with the P&C CSA member Facebook page to see what other members are doing and ask them questions on their favorite ways to prepare that week's vegetables.
- Finally, review the tips on how to get the most from your share on the CSA member app under My Share> How to LOVE My CSA Share (<https://pitchforkandcrowcsa.herokuapp.com/pages/how-to-love-my-csa-share>).

## **18 How do I store the veggies?**

First, you'll want to get your produce home as cool and as fast as possible. Leaving your produce in your hot car will lead to faster spoiling.

Second, different types of vegetables require different storage locations. Winter Squash does best on the counter, potatoes and garlic do well in the dark pantry, and leafy greens and roots should go into the crisper in your refrigerator. Also, you'll want to remove the greens from things like beets and carrots to avoid the roots going limp.

You can find storage tips for each of the vegetables we grow on the CSA member app website (<https://pitchforkandcrowcsa.herokuapp.com/>).

Quick storage tips are available on the CSA member app under My Share> Storage Tips (<https://pitchforkandcrowcsa.herokuapp.com/pages/storage-tips>).

## **19 Are there farm events?**

Yes, we'll be scheduling a mid-season farm visit this season. We think it's important for members to see where their produce is being grown. It also offers you a chance to meet other CSA members and there are usually tasty things to eat too!

Check the 'Important Dates' page on the member app to add the event dates to your calendar now. We'll promote these events in the newsletters and member emails in the weeks leading up to them.

## **20 Is the farm on social media?**

*Facebook:* You can follow happenings at the farm at <https://www.facebook.com/pitchforkandcrow/>.

*P&C CSA Member Facebook Group:* This group is for CSA members to share what they're up to with their P&C produce each week. We're always hoping to check-in more often this season with our own creations, questions, and suggestions too!  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pitchforkandcrowcsamembers>

*Instagram:* This is your best bet for following the farm adventures. We post photos of the farm at: <https://www.instagram.com/pitchforkandcrow/> (@pitchforkandcrow)

## **21 How do I contact my farmers?**

Email is generally the best way to communicate as we're often out in the field with our hands full: [farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com](mailto:farmers@pitchforkandcrow.com)

Need to give us a call or a text at the pick-up? You can reach Carri at 503-999-7918.

Need to mail us a payment?

Our mailing address for our box in town is 20 E Airport Rd #289 Lebanon, OR 97355.

Headed to the farm and need the physical address?

The farm is located at 34077 Santiam Hwy Lebanon, OR 97355.

**Thanks very much for your membership! We hope you will love the farm's produce as much as we love growing it for you!**

***Your Farmers ~ Carri and Jeff***