

# FISHKILL FARMS CSA FAQ

**Q: Can my share be packed up if I can't make it to pickup? (on-farm only)**

**A:** Absolutely! We understand life happens and will pack your share if we receive an email by 11:30 am on Saturday morning. Please feel free to send a friend to pick up as well.

**Limit 6 packed shares.**

**Q: If I send a friend to pick up my share, what info does the farm need before pickup?**

**A:** If you would like to have someone else pick up your share, please send us an email. That will help us know to look for them at pick-up. We will gladly show them where everything is located and how it all works.

**Q: When are the dedicated CSA hours for PYO?**

**A:** Fridays: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Please make sure you complete your PYO no later than 7:30 p.m. We must shut our front gate at that time.

Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

*PYO Times are subject to change due to weather and sunset times to keep everyone safe!*

**Q. What if I don't have time to pick my own?**

**A:** You can harvest the pick-your-own portion of the share any time before the next pick up between the hours of 9am-6pm However, we cannot guarantee the full portion of the share. Please also keep in mind that sometimes we must close the parts of orchard or vegetable fields for maintenance or to prevent the spread of disease. Call the store if you need more info.

**Q: Do I get a discount at the farm store, on pick-your-own fruits and Treasury Cider Tent?**

**A:** Yes! Your CSA membership card will get you Free pick-your-own admission to our farm, a 10% discount on all farm store products, grill items, and pick-your-own produce as well as\ discounted pricing for farm events.

**Q: Can I split a share with a friend?**

**A:** Yes, of course! Please provide us with the names and information of those you are sharing with so we may have both names on our sign up sheet and issue all parties with a membership card. How you choose to split the share is totally up to you! Many folks choose to alternate pickup week by week.

**Q: How does the swap box work?**

**A:** If you receive something in the share that you do not prefer to keep, you can switch it for something in the swap box or ask an attendant which items may be available for swapping. Please keep in mind that some items may not be available for swapping due to limited supply.

**Q: Where is handicap parking?**

**A:** We have handicap parking spaces in front of the barn and during apple season we have handicap parking behind the grill.

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**Q: Why is the speed limit in the orchard 5 mph?**

**A:** We have a lot of adults and children walking and picking fruit in the orchard. For safety, we must keep the speed limit low in the orchard. I'm sure we can all agree that we do not want anyone getting hurt at the farm!

**Q: Where are the restrooms?**

**A:** Before apple season the restrooms are in the red building. During apple season, we have outdoor bathrooms near the lower level of the brown barn. Signs will be up guiding you.

**Q: Can I pick more than what is on the share listing?**

**A:** Yes, If an item is open for pick-your-own to the public, you are always allowed to pick separately from your share. Don't forget your 10% CSA member discount on your extra produce!

**Q: Why are the quantities of berries in my share limited some years?**

**A:** Since our berries are grown organically, our berry crop is sometimes hard to predict. Some years we have tons and some years we do not. During slim seasons (if we don't think there will be enough for everyone to pick) we will not add it to the CSA share or allow you to pick your portion over an extended period of time. This is to avoid over-promising berries to all members. If you want more berries, please feel empowered to pick them when they are open for PYO. Don't forget your 10% CSA Member Discount!

**Q: Why don't I have pre-picked berries in my share?**

**A:** Berries are incredibly labor intensive for us to pick and ripen at different times throughout the week or even the day depending on the weather.

**Q: Can I bring my pets to CSA pickup?**

**A:** You can bring your pet to pick-up, but you will be asked to keep them outside of the barn. They can hang out on the front porch area and wait for you there. Due to health regulations, pets are NOT allowed in the farm store, barn, vegetable gardens, berry patches or on the grass in the orchard.

Pets are allowed along the orchard roads and in the grass behind the farm store. Pets MUST be kept on a leash at all times, be picked up and kept at a safe distance from our farm animals. Please keep in mind that the farm can get busy and some animals experience stress in larger crowds.

**Q: Can I drive into the orchard to complete my PYO?**

**A:** Most of the time. We will do our best to make PYO accessible, however, at times the orchard roads will have to be closed. To counteract this, we will provide a pre-picked option as the harvest allows. If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from completing the pick-your-own, please reach out to us—we don't want you to miss out and are happy to help.

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**Q: Why do my share contents in the CSA newsletter not contain exact quantities?**

**A:** Your share will look a little different in the newsletter this year. Because of our harvest and pack schedule (set in such a way to ensure you receive the freshest produce possible), we often do not have the full share together before the newsletter is sent on Thursday nights. Numbers sent out in the share are estimates and are not guarantees and ultimately leave us with little flexibility. We are aiming to send out a newsletter earlier in the week with anticipated share contents without exact numbers.

**Q: Will pickup have some pre-picked options in addition to PYO?**

**A:** Our CSA is set up in a market style pickup. The majority of your share will be pre-picked and ready for you in the barn, while some items (mainly fruit, flowers and herbs) will be available for PYO. We realize that not everyone always has the time or ability to complete the pick-your-own. We will do our best to offer a pre-picked option as well as a pick-your-own option whenever possible, however we usually offer larger quantities to those who choose the PYO option over the pre-picked option. Items like blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, currants and peas are usually not available pre-picked. If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from completing the pick-your-own portion of your share, please reach out to us—we don't want you to miss out and are happy to help.

**Q: Can CSA members volunteer and work on the farm?**

**A:** Throughout the season we are hoping to offer opportunities to get your hands dirty and work with us! Feel an even closer connection with where your food comes from and help out our crew at the same time – there will be some bonus fruits or vegetables involved, depending on the season.

**Q: Why are some crops closed for picking when it's raining or the plants are wet?**

**A:** Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Summer Squash, Peppers and Eggplant crops are very susceptible to diseases that are easily spread through moisture. If handled during the rainy days, or when plants are wet, it is not long before the disease is passed from plant to plant, destroying the crop. The best time to harvest these crops is in the late morning and before dusk when dew isn't present and on dry rain-free days.