

Fair Share Farm Vendor Policy

Fair Share Farm CSA seeks to benefit both its members by connecting them with local sources for healthy food not available through the CSA **AND** to help local farmers who follow sustainable and/or organic growing practices reach those consumers who most value their products.

CSA Core Group member **Kathi Whitman (kwhitman@incredibleenglish.com)** works as a liaison to find and interview prospective vendors interested in supplying our members and to coordinate how to help those farmers meet CSA member and Fair Share Farm (FSF) distribution needs.

At present, FSF offers two types of vendor opportunities: Partner Vendors and Specialty Vendors.

About Partner Vendors

A Partner Vendor supplies a predetermined, pre-ordered “share” on a regular basis to FSF distribution sites. Current Partner Vendors are Parker Farms (meat, poultry, eggs) and Bread of Life (bread, rolls, granola, pizza crust). These vendors can choose to supply weekly, every other week, or monthly and set the price and product limitations they need for a “share.” Members sign up for these predetermined shares based on their selected distribution site and contract with the vendors directly at Spring Sign-up. Partner Vendors handle all packaging and delivery to distribution site(s).*

About Specialty Vendors

A Specialty Vendor supplies product to CSA members on an “as-available, as-ordered” basis. When these vendors have produce or other product to offer to FSF members, they can communicate that information through the Farm’s weekly blog. Members interested in purchasing the vendors’ products can then contact the vendor directly and arrange for payment and pickup wherever the members currently pick up their FSF shares (or make alternate arrangements that meet both member and farmer needs). All product distribution, payment, and ordering is done by the vendor and the individual members. FSF provides the communication about the available product (based on farmer input) and distribution sites for member pick up. A Specialty Vendor who delivers product for members to a distribution site must clearly package and label product for each purchasing member. Product not picked up by the member will not be returned to the vendor. Although not mandatory, we recommend that Specialty Vendors attend Spring Sign-up and bring information about their farms and products as well as “tasting” samples.

** Distribution site requirements are based on product “footprint” and handling/storage requirements. Contact Kathi Whitman or FSF for specifics.*

Requirements for Partner Vendors:

- To qualify as a Partner Vendor, a farmer must:
- Complete the Vendor Information form (see attached) for FSF to distribute to members.
 - Attend the FSF Spring Sign-up (for 2010, this is 2:00 pm on March 21)
 - Have an in-place system for packaging/labeling “shares” for ease of distribution (Kathi Whitman can help with developing forms, labels, etc. if needed)
 - Handle all collection efforts and payment from members
 - Deliver shares to current FSF distribution point(s) at appropriate times (Fair Share Farm, Liberty, Kansas City)*
 - Host an on-farm visit by representative(s) of FSF
 - Be a Kansas City Food Circle member or have signed a similar Farmer’s Pledge

Requirements for Specialty Vendors:

- To qualify as a Specialty Vendor, a farmer must:
- Complete the Vendor Information form (see attached) for FSF to distribute to members.
 - Email a written description of what products are to be offered and at what pricing to Fair Share Farm (Rebecca@fairsharefarm.com) by noon on Tuesday for the following week’s delivery
 - Keep track of member orders and delivery expectations
 - Provide pre-packaged/labeled orders if distributing at FSF distribution sites
 - Handle all ordering, collection, and payment tasks directly with members
 - Host an on-farm visit by representative(s) of FSF
 - Be a Kansas City Food Circle member or have signed a similar Farmer’s Pledge

Our Farmers Pledges

Plant and Mushroom Farmers Pledge

Understanding that we must first build and then preserve healthy soil in order to grow healthy fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, and mushrooms, we require all our plant and mushroom farmer-members to sign this pledge.

I pledge:

- To enhance the health of the land I farm, prevent erosion, and limit losses due to crop diseases through such methods as: the proper application of manure and compost to the soil; planting "green manure" crops and nitrogen-fixing legumes; rotational plantings of complementary crops; drip irrigation; and fallowing
- To never use synthetic nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium fertilizers
- To reduce losses due to insects through such methods as: crop rotation and diversity; encouraging the presence of animals that prey on insects; and insect predator introduction
- To deal with unwanted plants in my fields through such methods as: cover-cropping, mulching, manual removal, tilling, and flame-weeding
- To only use fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides (including those applied to treated seeds), and other biocides that have been approved for use by the National Organic Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- To never use genetically engineered seeds
- To use potable water when washing produce
- To ensure that any fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, mushrooms and/or value-added products I resell from other local farms were produced in accordance with this pledge.

Animal Farmers Pledge

Understanding that we can only be healthy if the meat, poultry, eggs, and milk we eat come from healthy animals, and believing that farm animals deserve to be allowed to perform behaviors essential to their well-being, we require all our animal farmers to sign this pledge.

I pledge:

- To house the animals on my farm in outdoor pastures and/or pens with breed-appropriate shelter and bedding material available (temporary exceptions for medical treatment and breeding are allowed)
- To provide living conditions that will support the normal behavior and social interactions of each species on my farm so that the animals will thrive and to reduce the incidence of injury, stress, and disease
- To only use antibiotics, parasiticides, and other pharmaceutical drugs therapeutically in response to disease, infestation, or injury

Excerpted from The Kansas City Food Circle 2009 Directory of Local Organic and Free Range Food Producers. For more information about the Food Circle, visit www.kcfoodcircle.org.