



Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

2026 Site Host Information Packet



Thank you for your interest in becoming a Site Host Volunteer for the Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op CSA. The CSA program relies on site hosts to act as ambassadors for the co-op who provide welcoming pickup sites for other CSA members in your communities. We couldn't operate without our network of dedicated site hosts, so we greatly appreciate your interest in the program!

ABOUT LANCASTER FARM FRESH COOPERATIVE

WHO WE ARE

Co-op Farmers –

Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op is a non-profit organic farmer's cooperative of over 100 small-scale family farms in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. We focus on growing healthy, high-quality foods from highly maintained and enriched soils.

Co-op Staff –

Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op staff tackle the non-farming aspects, including marketing, sales, logistics, shipping, and operations. This allows our farmers to focus on what they do best – farming!

WHAT WE DO

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) -

The Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program is based on a traditional CSA farm sharing model. CSA members pledge their support to the co-op's farms by purchasing "shares" of the farmers' harvests before the season starts. This investment directly supports the farms by providing the

necessary capital for the upcoming harvest, including seeds, soil amendments, tools, equipment, energy-related costs, and other operational needs. In return, the farmers commit to growing top-notch organic produce and other goods, which are then delivered weekly to residential and corporate sites throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

Wholesale -

Produce and goods from member farms and partnering vendors are delivered to grocery stores, restaurants, and small businesses throughout the East Coast. Wholesale expands the co-op's reach by introducing more people to our farmers' fresh, organic produce.

ABOUT OUR FARMERS

Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op member farms steward the land to preserve Lancaster County's soil for abundant production of first-rate, healthy produce throughout future generations. Most of our farms are already USDA certified organic, and the remaining few operate completely chemical-free and are in the process of becoming certified organic. With a thirst for knowledge, our farmers continuously strive to improve their sustainable farming techniques from one season to the next. From no-till methods to crop rotation to other experimental methods, our farmers work together to succeed in growing the highest-quality produce possible and enriching the health of the communities we serve and the land we live on.

ABOUT OUR CSA SHARES

Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op offers 3 different CSA seasons throughout the year – Summer, Fall, and Winter. CSA shares include fresh, seasonal, organic produce from our member farms as well as a variety of exceptional products such as flowers, cheese, bread, yogurt, meat, and eggs. Shares are harvested by our farmers, delivered to the co-op's warehouse, packed into boxes, loaded into refrigerated trucks, and delivered to CSA pickup sites across the mid-Atlantic region – all within 24 hours!

SITE HOST INFORMATION

ABOUT SITE HOSTS

CSA Site Host Volunteers play a vital role in making healthy, organic food available to their communities by generously offering a space for members to pick up their weekly CSA. Pickup sites can be private residences, corporate offices, community centers, and elsewhere. Lancaster Farm Fresh has locations throughout the mid-Atlantic region spanning from rural and suburban communities to the metro areas of Philadelphia, New York, and Washington D.C.

Site hosts have the flexibility to determine the maximum number of members that they can accommodate at their sites as well as the types of shares that they can receive (e.g., produce only; no coolers or large bins). Some locations, such as corporate offices, can restrict their sites to employees only.

We ask for site hosts to provide a 4 to 6-hour pickup window for members. Sites hosts can advise what times of day work best for delivery and pickup. The final delivery day and times will be confirmed by our transportation team.

We encourage site hosts to engage with their members through Facebook groups, recipe swaps, and even potlucks and community events! CSA site hosting is what you make of it – and if you're looking to create a community centered around good food and healthy eating, hosting is a great place to start!

SITE HOST GUIDELINES

Communication –

Communication is the most important responsibility of our site hosts. You have valuable face-to-face time with our members, and they will often contact you first if they have questions or concerns. Please note that you can always direct members to contact us directly as well.



- You do not need to be onsite, but we ask that site hosts be available during their delivery and pickup windows via phone call, text, or email. Members will be provided with your contact information so that they can reach out to you if they have an issue.
- For missing items and delayed deliveries, please contact CSA Customer Service at 717.656.3533 x 2 as soon as possible so that we can respond in a timely manner. With sufficient notice, we will notify members and do everything we can to make up for missing or delayed shares. If there are repeated issues at your site, we're committed to working with you to resolve these problems.
- Site hosts must notify the Site Host Coordinator at csa.sitehost@lancasterfarmfresh.com of any important updates such as contact information, changes in site location or host availability, store or office closures, and other known disruptions that affect delivery or pickup (such as holidays, parades, construction, etc.).
- Site hosts provide pickup instructions for their location (i.e. where to park & where items are located) for our team to share with members. Please be sure to include instructions for members who are running late or miss their pickup window. Holding items is not a requirement, but if site hosts decide to allow next-day pickup, we ask you do not hold them more than 24 hours after delivery to ensure quality.

Important Contacts –

- For site-related issues or questions, please contact your Site Host Coordinator at 717.656.3533 x 154 or csa.sitehost@lancasterfarmfresh.com.
- For all other questions, please contact the Customer Service team at csa@lancasterfarmfresh.com or 717.656.3533 x 2.

Site Set-Up –

- Site hosts must provide a secure, covered location that can accommodate CSA shares. The number of shares varies based on the total members at each site. Typically, a CSA delivery includes 1-2 boxes per member, 1-2 boxes for fruit (when in season), 1-2 boxes for additional shares, 1 swap box, and 1 cooler.
- CSA shares **must be set up in a sheltered location** (e.g. a covered porch, awning, tent, garage, etc.). This covering keeps the items protected from the sun, wind, rain, and other elements in all seasons.
- Please ensure that shares are **not on the ground**. Ideally, shares are set up on an elevated porch or a table.
- Site hosts are not required to be onsite to receive CSA deliveries. However, our drivers appreciate any help you can offer, and they would love to meet you!
- Please make sure your CSA area is clean and that there is a clear path for the driver to deliver shares.
- **If pickup hours are after dark, please ensure locations and pathways are well lit.**
- Coolers remain at the site in between deliveries, so they must be at the site for the driver to pick up during the next week's delivery. Site hosts must clean out the coolers and remove any leftover items, leaving only the reusable ice packs.
- Set up a designated spot for the sign-in sheet and pen. That way, members can easily find the sign-in sheet and check off their name at pickup!

Unite For HER (UFH) –

- People with UFH shares receive special vegetable boxes labeled "Unite For Her" during a 6-week period. You are not required to inform LFFC of missed UFH pickups. Notify the CSA team: (1) if there are any changes that may impact UFH members at your site, such as a delivery delay, (2) if a UFH member does not receive her box, and (3) if you have reason to believe that a UFH member may have taken a non-UFH box.



Example of Set-Up with the cooler and 3 different veg size boxes

Site Clean-Up –

When CSA runs smoothly, there shouldn't be much for you to clean up!

- We ask all CSA members to clean up after themselves. This includes breaking down their own boxes and helping to tidy up their hosts' sites.
- Site hosts should collect any leftover produce. You may choose to donate, keep, or compost any leftover **produce shares**. Many of our site hosts partner with food banks or local families in need to share extra produce with their community.
- **If any special orders, turkeys, or cooler items remain at the end of the night, notify the CSA team at 717.656.3533 x 2.** We will contact these customers to arrange for a later pickup, so **please do not donate leftover special-order items.**
- Before the next delivery, please make sure to check the cooler, wipe down the inside, and remove any leftover items except for the ice packs. Ice packs will be reused by the co-op.
- We ask site hosts to break down the previous week's cardboard boxes and bind them together in a pile before the next delivery. That way, our driver can pick them up and return them to be recycled at the co-op! **Friendly reminder: Our drivers will not collect the boxes if they are not tied.**

SITE HOST BENEFITS

Building Community –

CSA membership in the Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op helps protect more than 120 small-scale family farms in Lancaster County and ensures that they can continue practicing sustainable farming and growing healthy, organic produce for generations to come! As a CSA Site Host, you'll build connections around food in your neighborhood and play an essential role in getting fresh, local produce and groceries from farms to homes.

Enjoy Free CSA Shares –

We're grateful for the time and energy our Site Host Volunteers contribute—and we love showing that appreciation with fresh organic produce! If you are the Site Host Volunteer at a home site, you can elect to receive 1 complementary medium vegetable share and 1 complementary fruit share once your site reaches the weekly delivery minimum. When your site qualifies, our CSA Site Host Coordinator will contact you to set up your share. Complementary shares are offered each season (summer, fall, winter) that your site participates in.

Individual Site Hosts also receive a **5% discount code** to apply to additional CSA shares offered on our website!

CSA MARKETING & TIPS



We do some broad CSA marketing through social media advertisements and promotional emails. As a site host, you know your community best, so we rely on you to assist with promoting each season's CSA. The more promotion you do, the more successful your site will be – and the more support goes to our farmers!

Assisting with marketing is easy and helps ensure that your CSA site meets the weekly delivery minimum. Here are some marketing tactics that other sites hosts have had success with:

Flyers –

Each season, we create a new digital flyer and share it with our site hosts. We are always happy to mail you physical copies – just shoot us an email and let us know how many you would like. Here are some suggestions for places to post the flyer:

- cafes and coffee shops
- gyms and fitness centers
- yoga studios
- wellness centers
- massage therapists
- chiropractors
- religious organizations
- libraries
- local schools
- community bulletin boards
- grocery stores
- senior centers

Social Media –

Social media is a great way to connect your friends, family, and community members to Lancaster Farm Fresh CSA. You are highly encouraged to share links to our website, post on various outlets including Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, TikTok, Next Door, WhatsApp, and elsewhere!

We also suggest creating community Facebook groups to further engage your site members. You can email csa.sitehost@lancasterfarmfresh.com to request the contact information for your site members. Hosts can post important notifications, recipes, photos, events, and more.

Lancaster Farm Fresh Co-op has the following social media accounts that you can follow and share:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Pinterest](#)

Events –

Is there a health expo, community day, block meeting, or PTA event happening in your community soon? We welcome you to inform us about any events you think could be beneficial for a CSA team member to attend. We love attending events, handing out free produce, and getting people excited about CSA!

Newsletter Spotlights –

We would be glad to feature you in one of newsletters to current CSA members! Just send us a photo of your choice (like your pickup area/front porch/storefront etc.) and a sentence or two about why you want to be a volunteer host or why you enjoy hosting. Newsletters are sent weekly to current CSA members during the season.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What does “weekly delivery minimum” mean?

While we wish we could deliver CSA to every neighborhood, we need to set a minimum delivery amount for each location based on the site’s distance from the co-op. Each share purchased at your site counts toward this delivery minimum. Once you meet the sign-up minimum, you are ready to become an active CSA site!

Q: What happens if my site does not meet its weekly delivery minimum?

We try our best to support sites through our general promotions, but if your site does not meet the minimum required for delivery, we will need to cancel the site for the season. Any members currently signed up for your site will be transferred to other locations.

If your site is *close* to the minimum at the end of the sign-up period, we may be able to keep your site if you are willing to host **without** a complementary share. If at any point during the season (members can sign up for prorated shares throughout the season) we will absolutely begin sending you a complementary share. **These situations are handled on a case-by-case basis.**

Q: What are Unite for HER (UFH) shares?

Unite for HER (UFH) is an extraordinary organization that offers wellness services to women battling breast and ovarian cancers. We partner with UFH to offer special produce shares at no cost to their members during shortened, 6-week sessions. UFH members may choose an existing location that is convenient for them. To help distinguish these special shares, they are labeled with a yellow “Unite for Her Share” sticker. Site Hosts will be contacted prior to the start of the UFH sessions if they have any members at their sites.

Q: I have a member who is repeatedly late or forgets to pick up their shares. What should I do?

We ask all site hosts to keep us in the loop if you ever deal with “repeat offenders.” We are happy to email folks with instructions and reminders based on the issue. You can also ask us to update your site instructions to not hold any shares after the end of pickup. You can choose to keep or donate any unclaimed items. We want you to know, as a site host, that your time is valuable and should be respected!

Q: I have a member who is asking where their missing item is (veg box, meat share, eggs, etc.). What should I do?

If you can confirm the delivery, please ask them to contact our Customer Service team directly at csa@lancasterfarmfresh.com, and we will assist them.

Q: What if I’m going to be away during a CSA delivery day?

If you will be away or unavailable by phone or email on a CSA delivery day, we ask that you please notify the Customer Service team at least 2 weeks in advance. We also ask that you provide us with an alternative contact person who will be able to check the site to ensure the delivery and pickup went smoothly.

Q: My CSA delivery driver is late...

Please call us on the customer service line at 717.656.3533 x 2! We are not always aware of late deliveries, so please contact us right away if the driver is late. We will contact our transportation department and notify the site members of the delay.

