

2013 Price Study of Community Supported Agriculture Operations in CT

By Amanda Freund, amanda.freund@uconn.edu; and Jiff Martin, UConn Extension, jiff.martin@uconn.edu

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), an arrangement whereby customers pay growers in advance of the growing season for a guaranteed share of the season's harvest.

Background: Between August-September 2013 we investigated pricing that farm operations advertised for purchasing a CSA share. Our goal was to have a better understanding of average price/week that Connecticut farmers were charging for a standard summer vegetable share. Data on 83 CSA farm operations was gathered primarily using farm business websites and producer association listings. When a range of weeks was presented for a share (i.e. 16-18 weeks), the average number was used.

We did not attempt to compare the contents of CSA shares, nor did we analyze pricing for specialty CSA shares such as winter shares, flower shares, meat shares, etc.

See Appendix B for a more comprehensive list of all CSAs in the state.

Based on our research, we found the following: Average weekly price of 2013 Summer Vegetable CSA* = \$30 Maximum price = \$50 Minimum price = \$14 *Average weekly price of 2012 Summer Vegetable CSA was \$28 The 2012 average was calculated using data from 63 farms.
--

Payment Systems

Debit/Credit

There was an increase in the number of farms offering a debit /credit system to their customers. In place of presenting pre-packed boxes, more farms are offering a debit option for customers to prepay in exchange for selecting the quantity and products they desire each week.

Discounts

Select CSAs have offered a percentage discount to share cost when a 2nd share is purchased. Other farms have offered a discount for products outside the standard CSA option as an incentive for purchasing a share. Discounts were also made available in the form of work shares, requiring a predefined number of hours of work in exchange for price reduction of CSA share.

EBT/SNAP Acceptance

A form of payment that may become more popular and more easily processed by farms is EBT/SNAP.

Box shares vs. Pick and choose

Some farmers prepack their week's harvest into boxes or bags with each customer receiving a definitive amount of each crop. These box shares are then picked up or delivered on a set date each week. An alternative method to this box share is providing guidelines to customers for what quantity of each type of crop they can choose to select for their week's share at their pick up location each week.

Pricing data for 2013 Summer CSA Shares in Connecticut:

Fairfield County		COST/WK		
Belta's Farm		\$25	Cupola Hollow Farm	\$28
Westport, CT			West Suffield, CT	
Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$500			Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$550	
Garden Of Ideas, LLC		\$29	Deercrest Farm	\$45
Ridgefield, CT			Glastonbury, CT	
Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$525			Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$900	
New Pond Farm		\$33	Easy Pickin's Orchard	\$26
West Redding, CT			Enfield, CT	
Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$600			Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$525	
Simpaug Farm		\$31	Fair Weather Acres	\$33
Ridgefield, CT			Rocky Hill, CT	
Summer full share: 16 weeks, \$500			Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$600	
Shortt's Farm and Garden Center		\$27	Futtner's Family Farm	\$15
Sandy Hook, CT			East Hartford, CT	
Summer full share: 21 weeks, \$565			Summer full share: 16 weeks, \$240	
Sport Hill Farm		\$27	Garlic Farm	\$38
Easton, CT			West Granby, CT	
Summer full share: 21 weeks, \$575			Summer full share: 12 weeks, \$455	
Stone Gardens Farm		\$30	George Hall Farm	\$24
Shelton, CT			Simsbury, CT	
Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$600			Summer full share: 22 weeks, \$525	
The Hickories		\$39	Grow Hartford CSA	\$30
Ridgefield, CT			Hartford, CT	
Summer full share: 16 weeks, \$625			Summer full share: 12 weeks, \$360	
Hartford County			Hein Farm LLC	\$27
Baggott Family Farms		\$24	Farmington, CT	
East Windsor, CT			Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$540	
Summer full share: 21 weeks, \$495			Holcomb Farm	\$28
Beckett Farms, LLC		\$32	West Granby, CT	
Glastonbury, CT			Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$550	
Summer full share: 22 weeks, \$700			Killam & Bassette Farmstead, LLC	\$30
Bright Yellow Farm		\$25	South Glastonbury, CT	
Bloomfield, CT			Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$600	
Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$500			Newgate Farms	\$26
Chicoine Family Farms LLC		\$20	Windsor, CT	
East Windsor, CT			Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$525	
Summer full share: 10 weeks, \$400				

Oxen Hill Farm CSA Suffield, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$560	\$28	Clatter Valley Farm New Milford, CT Summer full share: 15 weeks, \$450	\$30
Renaissance Farm Burlington, CT Summer full share: 15 weeks, \$580	\$39	Fort Hill Farm New Milford, CT Summer full share: 21 weeks, \$640	\$30
Rosedale Farm and Vineyards Simsbury, CT Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$549	\$31	Gresczyk Farms New Hartford, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$500	\$25
Serafina Says Farm Canton, CT Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$575	\$32	Heritage Gardens Winchester, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$420	\$21
Tulmeadow Farm West Simsbury, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$460	\$23	Maple View Farm Harwinton, CT Summer full share: 17 weeks, \$550	\$32
Urban Oaks Organic Farm New Britain CT Summer full share: 12 weeks, \$600	\$50	Marble Valley Farm Kent, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$550	\$28
Windham Gardens Granby, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$495	\$25	Mayapple Hill Farm New Milford, CT Summer full share: 16 weeks, \$525	\$33
Wind Hill Community Farm Glastonbury, CT Summer full share: 15 weeks, \$300	\$20	Sun One Organic Farm Bethlehem, CT Summer full share: 17 weeks, \$450	\$26
Litchfield County		The Farm Woodbury, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$495	\$25
Adamah Farm Falls Village, CT Summer full share: 23 weeks, \$625	\$27	Waldingfield Farm Washington, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$650	\$33
Barden Farm New Hartford, CT Summer full share: 22 weeks, \$550	\$25	Wild Carrot Farm, LLC Bantam, CT Summer full share: 21 weeks, \$630	\$30
Beaver Meadow Litchfield, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$600	\$30	Wright Farm Goshen, CT Summer full share: 22 weeks, \$610	\$28
Bunnell Farm Litchfield, CT Summer full share: 16 weeks, \$500	\$31		
Chubby Bunny Farm Falls Village, CT Summer full share: 22 weeks, \$650	\$30	Middlesex County	
		Bitta-Blue Farm Killingworth, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$350	\$18

Common Ground CSA Colchester, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$750	\$38	Gazy Brothers Farm Oxford, CT Summer full share: 12 weeks, \$550	\$46
Fire Ring Farm Portland, CT Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$550	\$31	High Hill Orchard Meriden, CT Summer full share: 16 weeks, \$285	\$18
Smith Farm/AVP East Haddam, CT Summer full share: 10 weeks, \$275	\$28	Hindinger Farm Hamden, CT Summer full share: 24 weeks, \$550	\$23
Star Light Gardens Durham, CT Summer full share: 21 weeks, \$675	\$32	Little Portion Acres Cheshire, CT Full Summer Share: 17 weeks, \$525	\$31
Wellstone Farm Higganum, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$575	\$29	Massaro Farm CSA, Inc. Woodbridge, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$625	\$31
New Haven County		Northfordy Farm Northford, CT Summer full share: 17 weeks, \$600	\$35
Barberry Hill Farm Madison, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$650	\$33	River Crest Farm, LLC Milford, CT Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$450	\$25
Bishop's Orchards Farm Market Guilford, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$600	\$30	Robert Treat Farm Milford, CT Summer full share: 16 weeks, \$560	\$35
Bodhichitta Farms Prospect, CT Summer full share: 16 weeks, \$595	\$37	New London County	
Boulder Knoll Community Farm Cheshire, CT Summer full share: 10 baskets, \$500	\$50	Brown Paper Bag Harry's Farm North Franklin, CT Summer full share: 15 weeks, \$550	\$37
City Seed CSM New Haven, CT Summer full share: 16 weeks, \$224	\$14	FRESH New London CSA New London, CT Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$600	\$30
Eve's Corner Garden Bethany, CT Summer full share: 13 weeks, \$450	\$35	Hunts Brook Farm Quaker Hill, CT Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$625	\$35
Farmer Joe's Gardens Wallingford, CT Summer full share: 8 weeks, \$200	\$25	New Mercies Farm Lyme, CT Summer full share: 19 weeks, \$760	\$40
Frankie's Fruit & Vegetables North Haven, CT Summer full share: 17 weeks, \$550	\$32	Provider Farm Salem, CT Summer full share: 23 weeks, \$575	\$25

Spring Lake Gardens \$20
Sterling, CT
Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$400

Tolland County

Down to Earth CSA \$35
Stafford, CT
Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$700

Hurst Family Farm \$17
Andover, CT
Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$300

Shundahai Farm \$26
Mansfield, CT
Summer full share: 20 weeks, \$525

Windham County

Brown Farm \$36
Scotland, CT
Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$650

Devon Point Farm \$38
Woodstock, CT
Summer full share: 18 weeks, \$685

Wayne's Organic Farm \$23
Oneco, CT
Summer full share: 14 weeks, \$325

Research for this publication was sponsored by the University of Connecticut and the USDA Risk Management Agency as part of the Targeted States Crop Insurance and Information program for Connecticut Agriculture.

An Equal Opportunity Employer and Program Provider.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-0410. Or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD).

