

2017 Price Study of Community Supported Agriculture Operations in CT

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Price Study Background

Our research goal was to determine prices and identifiable trends for standard summer vegetable CSA shares from the 2017 season and to report those findings to producers. In this sixth year of collecting this data, we have attempted to identify CSA farm shares in each county of Connecticut with particular attention to comparing and identifying the following:

1. Prices of all CSA shares and the average by county
2. Number of CSAs that are certified organic and/or CT NOFA Farmers Pledge
3. Average price of certified organic CSA shares by county
4. Number of CSAs with add-ons (such as flowers, fruit, eggs, or meat)
5. Number of CSAs with more than one season offered
6. Number of CSAs offering a subsidized/ reduced rate for low-income customers
7. Number of CSAs offering delivery
8. Comparison of 2016 CSA to data in 2017

Methodology

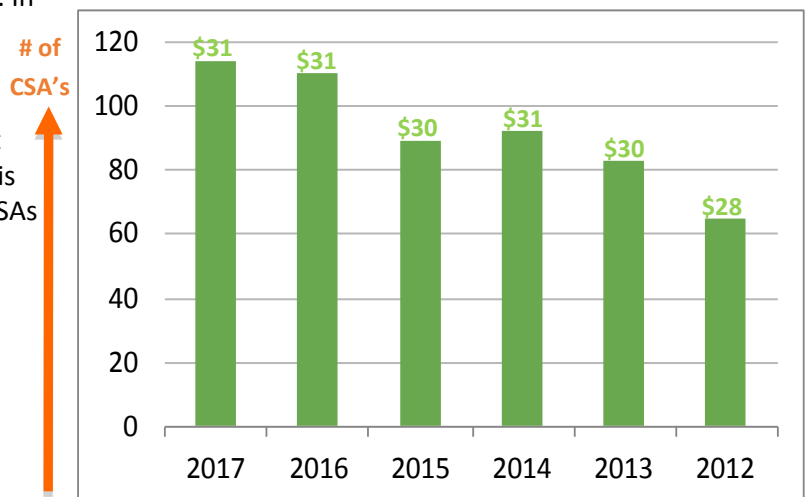
We relied on publicly advertised CSA shares by farms and producer associations on websites and social media. We compared prices of full CSA shares, typically offered for 16-20 weeks from July to October, that featured vegetables, herbs, and sometimes flowers or small fruit. In an effort to understand how CSAs are attempting to expand their membership to low-income customers, we also tracked information about sliding scale fees, work-shares, and low-income priced shares. We did not attempt to compare the contents of CSA shares. Below is a summary of our findings, as well as a full list of the CSAs that were included in the study.



Statewide CSA Data

Overall, we found pricing data for 112 farm businesses offering CSAs, up only slightly from 110 CSAs in 2016. The average price held steady at \$31/week. We determined that at least 21 CSAs were using the farmstand/credit/debit model, and at least 10 CSAs offered delivery. There were 14 CSAs listed as USDA Certified Organic, down from 17 in 2016. However, we found a small increase in the number of farms that are not certified organic but are identifying as taking the CT NOFA Farmer’s Pledge*, increasing from 32 in 2016 to 36 in 2017. Approximately one quarter of the CSAs offered service in more than one season, and one third offered add on shares. Finally, we could only identify 7 CSAs with a subsidized or reduced rate for low income members.

	2016	2017
Total # of CSAs counted	110	112
Pricing:		
Average Weekly Price	\$31	\$31
Maximum Weekly Price	\$50	\$50
Minimum Weekly Price	\$15	\$15
CSAs using Organic/Ecological Growing Methods:		
Number of CSAs that are USDA Certified Organic	17	14
Number of CSAs taking the CT NOFA Farmer’s Pledge* (but are not USDA Certified Organic)	32	36
Average Weekly Price for CSAs that are USDA Certified Organic	\$32.37	\$32.31



* The Farmer’s Pledge™, a program for CT NOFA members, is a commitment to farming, marketing and farm management in accordance with sound ecological and economic principles. It is separate and distinct from “Certified Organic.” For more info: <https://www.ctnofa.org/farmerspledge.html>

Fairfield County:

8 CSAs
 2 certified organic
 5 CT NOFA Farmers Pledge
 3 farms offer other seasons
 4 farms offer add-ons
 5 farms offer farmstand/farm credit style CSA
 0 subsidized/reduced rate shares
 Average Weekly Cost: \$33

Hartford County:

24 CSAs
 3 certified organic
 6 CT NOFA Farmers Pledge
 11 farms offer other seasons
 6 farms offer add-ons
 2 farms offer farmstand/farm credit style CSA
 0 subsidized/reduced rate shares
 Average Weekly Cost: \$32

Litchfield County:

19 CSAs
 2 certified organic
 4 CT NOFA Farmers Pledge
 3 farms offer other seasons
 6 farms offer add-ons
 5 farms offer farmstand/farm credit style CSA
 3 subsidized/reduced rate shares
 Average Weekly Cost: \$28

Middlesex County:

8 CSAs
 2 certified organic
 5 CT NOFA Farmers Pledge
 1 farms offer other seasons
 2 farms offer add-ons
 0 farms offer farmstand/farm credit style CSA
 1 subsidized/reduced rate shares
 Average Weekly Cost: \$29

New Haven County:

22 CSAs
 2 certified organic
 11 CT NOFA Farmers Pledge
 5 farms offer other seasons
 10 farms offer add-ons
 5 farms offer farmstand/farm credit style CSA
 0 subsidized/reduced rate shares
 Average Weekly Cost: \$30

New London County:

12 CSAs
 1 certified organic
 5 CT NOFA Farmers Pledge
 1 farms offer other seasons
 1 farms offer add-ons
 1 farms offer farmstand/farm credit style CSA
 1 subsidized/reduced rate shares
 Average Weekly Cost: \$37

Tolland County:

9 CSAs
 0 certified organic
 4 CT NOFA Farmers Pledge
 2 farms offer other seasons
 2 farms offer add-ons
 2 farms offer farmstand/farm credit style CSA
 1 subsidized/reduced rate shares
 Average Weekly Cost: \$33

Windham County:

10 CSAs
 2 certified organic
 3 CT NOFA Farmers Pledge
 2 farms offer other seasons
 3 farms offer add-ons
 1 farms offer farmstand/farm credit style CSA
 0 subsidized/reduced rate shares
 Average Weekly Cost: \$28

CT Vegetable CSA Weekly County Averages

Fairfield County - \$33	New Haven County - \$30
Hartford County - \$32	New London County - \$37
Litchfield County - \$28	Tolland County - \$33
Middlesex County - \$29	Windham County - \$28

Full List of Connecticut CSAs & Weekly Pricing Data for 2017 Summer Shares

Fairfield County	Cost/wk
County Average =	\$33

Belta's Farm, Westport
18 wks, \$500 \$27.78

First Acre, LLC, Stratford
20 wks, \$650 \$32.50

Laurel Glen Farm, Shelton
20 wks, \$500 \$25.00

Sherwood Farm, Easton
18 wks, \$750 \$41.67

Shortt's Farm, Sandy Hook
18 wks, \$585 \$32.50

Sport Hill Farm, Easton
20 wks, \$700 \$35.00

Stone Gardens Farm, Shelton
20 wks, \$600 \$30.00

The Hickories, Ridgefield
17 wks, \$625 \$36.76

Hartford County	Cost/wk
County Average =	\$32

Beckett Farms, LLC, Glastonbury
24 wks, \$900 \$37.50

Bristol's Farm Market, Canton
18 wks, \$500 \$27.78

Community Farm of Simsbury
20 wks, \$300 \$15.00

Deercrest Farm, Glastonbury
20 wks, \$500 \$25.00

Easy Pickin's Orchard, Enfield
20 wks, \$555 \$27.78

Fair Weather Acres, Rocky Hill
16 wks, \$600 \$37.50

Futtner's Family Farm, East Hartford
13 wks, \$260 \$20.00

Garlic Farm, West Granby
10 wks, \$485 \$48.50

George Hall Farm, Simsbury
20 wks, \$575 \$28.75

Hein Farm, LLC, Farmington
18 wks, \$600 \$33.33

Holcomb Farm CSA, West Granby
20 wks, \$625 \$31.25

Karabin Farms, Southington
15 wks, \$600 \$40.00

Killam & Bassette Farmstead, S. Glastonbury
20 wks, \$600 \$30.00

Late Bloomer Farm, Simsbury
16 wks, \$480 \$30.00

Lewis Educational Agricultural Farm, Southington
18 wks, \$750 \$41.67

Newgate Farms, Windsor
20 wks, \$650 \$32.50

Oxen Hill Farm CSA, Suffield
18 wks, \$645 \$35.83

Rosedale Farm & Vineyards, Simsbury
10 wks, \$399 \$39.90

Simpaug Farm, West Suffield
16 wks, \$560 \$35.00

Sub Edge Farm, Farmington
18 wks, \$650 \$36.11

Thompson St. & Bednarz Farm, S. Glastonbury
19 wks, \$475 \$25.00

Tulmeadow Farm, West Simsbury
18 wks, \$540 \$30.00

Urth Farms, New Britain
10 wks, \$400 \$40.00

Wind Hill Community Farm, Glastonbury
18 wks, \$450 \$25.00

Litchfield County	Cost/wk
County Average =	\$28

A New Hope Farm, Thomaston
18 wks, \$400 \$22.22

Adamah Farm, Falls Village
23 wks, \$680 \$29.57

Back 40 Farm, Washington
20 wks, \$800 \$40.00

Barden Farm, New Hartford
22 wks, \$550 \$25.00

Camps Road Farm, Kent
20 wks, \$500 \$25.00

Clatter Valley Farm, New Milford
15 wks, \$500 \$33.33

Fort Hill Farm, New Milford
21 wks, \$600 \$28.57

Gresczyk Farms LLC, New Hartford
20 wks, \$500 \$25.00

Heritage Gardens, Winchester
18 wks, \$480 \$26.67

Maple View Farm, Harwinton
16 wks, \$350 \$21.88

Marble Valley Farm, Kent
20 wks, \$650 \$32.50

Ox Hollow Farm, Bantam
20 wks, \$500 \$25.00

Percy Thomson Meadows, Bethlehem
27 wks, \$700 \$25.93

Pleasant Valley Botanicals, Collinsville
8 wks, \$350 \$43.75

Shiloh Run Farm, Harwinton
20 wks, \$580 \$29.00

Sun One Organic Farm, Bethlehem
18 wks, \$535 \$29.72

The Farm, Woodbury
18 wks, \$360 \$20.00

Waldingfield Farm, Washington
20 wks, \$600 \$30.00

Wild Carrot Farm, Bantam
26 wks, \$510 \$19.62

Middlesex County	Cost/wk
County Average =	\$29

Bitta-Blue Farm, Killingworth
20 wks, \$400 \$20.00

Fire Ring Farm, Portland
18 wks, \$600 \$33.33

Forest City Farms, Middletown
18 wks, \$625 \$34.72

Phoenix Farm, Cromwell
20 wks, \$700 \$35.00

Smith Farm, East Haddam
11 wks, \$300 \$27.27

Staehly Farms, East Haddam
20 wks, \$600 \$30.00

Wellstone Farm, Higganum
18 wks, \$625 \$34.72

Yellow House Farm, LLC, Middletown
15 wks, \$300 \$20.00

New Haven County	Cost/wk
County Average =	\$30

Barberry Hill Farm, Madison
16 wks, \$650 \$40.63

Bishop's Orchards, Guilford
20 wks, \$600 \$30.00

Bodhichitta Farms, Prospect
15 wks, \$600 \$40.00

Boulder Knoll Community Farm, Cheshire
20 wks, \$420 \$21.00

Cecarelli Farms, Northford
18 wks, \$480 \$26.67

Clover Nook Farm, Northford
18 wks, \$495 \$27.50

Daffodil Hill Growers, Southbury
17 wks, \$575 \$33.82

Defrancesco Farm, Branford
14 wks, \$378 \$27.00

Farm River Farm, East Haven
18 wks, \$625 \$34.72

Farmer Joe's Gardens, Wallingford
15 wks, \$405 \$27.00

Field House Farm, Madison
12 wks, \$360 \$30.00

Frankie's Fruit & Vegetables, North Haven
18 wks, \$550 \$30.56

Gazy Brothers Farm, Oxford
12 wks, \$300 \$25.00

Gentle Giant Farm, Bethany
20 wks, \$500 \$25.00

High Hill Orchard, Meriden
16 wks, \$325 \$20.31

Hindinger Farm, Hamden
24 wks, \$575 \$23.96

Koan Farms, Woodbridge
20 wks, \$550 \$27.50

Massaro Farm CSA, Inc., Woodbridge
20 wks, \$695 \$34.75

New Haven Farms, New Haven
20 wks, \$800 \$40.00

River Crest Farm, LLC, Milford
18 wks, \$500 \$27.78

Robert Treat Farm, Milford
12 wks, \$325 \$27.08

The Crooked Carrot CSA, Southbury
20 wks, \$600 \$30.00

New London County	Cost/wk
County Average =	\$37

Ayer Farm, Franklin
18 wks, \$550 \$30.56

Brown Paper Bag Harry's Farm, Franklin
15 wks, \$550 \$36.67

C&C Farm, Franklin
14 wks, \$500 \$35.71

Cold Spring Farm/Common Ground CSA, Colchester
20 wks, \$1000 \$50.00

Full Heart Farm, Ledyard
13 wks, \$409 \$31.46

Hunts Brook Farm, Quaker Hill
18 wks, \$650 \$36.11

Provider Farm, Salem
23 wks, \$630 \$27.39

Stone Acres Farm, Stonington
16 wks, \$675 \$42.19

Stoneyledge Farm/Studio Farm Products, Voluntown
12 wks, \$550 \$45.83

Sweet Acre Farm, Lebanon
20 wks, \$600 \$30.00

Upper Pond Farm, Old Lyme
20 wks, \$800 \$40.00

West Green Farm, Lebanon
16 wks, \$550 \$34.38

Tolland County	Cost/wk
County Average =	\$33

Cloverleigh Farm, Mansfield Center
16 wks, \$600 \$37.50

Cobblestone Farm, Mansfield Center
18 wks, \$550 \$30.56

Down to Earth CSA, Stafford
20 wks, \$775 \$38.75

Fox Meadow Farm, Storrs
15 wks, \$475 \$31.67

Garden of Eat'n, Ellington
15 wks, \$450 \$30.00

Ghost Fawn Homestead, Willington
16 wks, \$500 \$31.25

Hurst Family Farm, Andover
18 wks, \$550 \$30.56

Red Barn Creamery/Stearns Farmstand, Storrs
16 wks, \$600 \$37.50

Willow Valley Farm, Willington
20 wks, \$500 \$25.00

Windham County	Cost/wk
County Average =	\$28

Abington Grown/We-Li-Kit Farm, Abington
20 wks, \$300 \$15.00

Blueberry Hill Organic Farm, Danielson
15 wks, \$675 \$45.00

Brown Farm, Scotland
20 wks, \$650 \$32.50

Devon Point Farm, Woodstock
18 wks, \$770 \$42.78

Fiddlehead Farmstead, Pomfret Center
12 wks, \$300 \$25.00

KD Crop Farms, Chaplin
20 wks, \$400 \$20.00

Raspberry Knoll Farm, North Windham
16 wks, \$400 \$25.00

Russo's Roots, Canterbury
20 wks, \$575 \$28.75

WaterCure Farm, Pomfret Center
12 wks, \$300 \$25.00

Woodstock Sustainable Farm, Woodstock
24 wks, \$575 \$23.96