

Spring Creek Farm CSA

Community Supported Agriculture

Production

Providing fresh vegetables for shareholders, anti-hunger organizations, and our community

Education

Gathering and sharing information on agriculture and food systems in Alaska

Engagement

Offering opportunities for on-farm participation and community building





What is a CSA?

CSA stands for community supported agriculture, a concept conceived in order to support small farms that wish to market their products locally and directly to customers in their communities. Customers purchase CSA shares at the beginning of the season and receive a distribution of vegetables each week throughout the farm season.

By paying up front, CSA members support small farms by sharing in the risk of growing vegetables. The idea has helped support local food production around the country and the world and encourages customers to get to know their farmers directly, shortening the food chain, and giving people access to information about how their food is grown.

What's in a CSA share?

Spring Creek Farm produces a wide range of vegetables including lettuce, mixed salad greens, carrots, beets, potatoes, cucumbers, peppers, herbs, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, bok choy, kale, swiss chard, peas, turnips, radishes, zucchini and more.

In early July, your share will include more leafy greens and salad items. By early August we will add a couple root vegetables, such as carrots and beets, in addition to larger items like cauliflower, broccoli, cucumbers, and zucchini. In the fall, we will keep distributing many of these vegetables, while adding the heartier fall crops: potatoes, Brussels sprouts, and more root vegetables.

Updates for 2026

Change in CSA Structure

We have changed our CSA model slightly for the 2026 season. We pushed the start date back by two weeks to ensure a bountiful start to the shares. With the variability of weather in June, crops can be slow to get growing in the cold soil, limiting harvestability. We have also moved away from two share sizes to just one, which will be somewhere in between the small and large shares of the past. With the majority of members having small shares, and the feedback we've received, this seems to make the most sense for our members going forward.



New varieties!

This year we are very excited to be growing garlic again, which will allow for garlic scapes earlier in the summer and full heads later on. We are going to see how both purple top and scarlet turnips do, as well as a couple new types of hot pepper. As with all new varieties, we are hopeful but uncertain how they will do in our colder climate. However, we are always trying new crops to increase variety in the CSA, and will share updates in the newsletter throughout the season.



Is Spring Creek Farm organic?

While Spring Creek Farm does not pay to be Certified Organic through the USDA, we use practices that match or exceed those standards. We have never used chemical fertilizers or pesticides on our fields, and manage soil and plant health through cover cropping, the addition of compost and organic fertilizers, crop rotation, and natural pest management techniques. If you have any other questions about our growing practices, please contact us!

How big is a CSA share?

We offer one share size, containing enough fresh vegetables to feed a typical couple or small family each week. The share will range from 7-15 items and weigh approximately 6-15 lbs.

When does the CSA start and end?

The CSA will begin the first week of July and run until the first week of October, which is 15 weeks in total

How much does the CSA cost?

The CSA is offered on a sliding scale, and we ask folks to pay what is comfortable for them. We offer a Discount Share at \$480, an At-Cost Share at \$530, and a Supporter Share at \$580





Who will be growing my food?

The farm is operated by a crew of six during the summer months, which is then downsized to four towards the end of August through mid-October. The bulk of the team is made up of two to four interns, who come to Spring Creek Farm to learn about small-scale vegetable farming. The interns are lead by Leah Corbin, Farm Manager, and Kiara Biggs, Assistant Farm Manager. Between the two of them, Kiara and Leah have 11 farm seasons of experience.

How do I sign up?

We now have an online registration and payment option, which you can find on the APU website. Registration opens in February and lasts until the end of March or our program fills to capacity.

What if I can't pick up my share?

If you cannot pick up your share on a given week, you may designate a friend or neighbor to pick up for you. Unfortunately, we cannot provide "make-up" shares for people that have missed pickups. With advanced notice, however, shares can be picked up at the the farm in Palmer between the scheduled pickup day and Sunday evenings. Missed shares that are unspoken for are donated to the Mat-Su Food Bank or another local anti-hunger organization.



Why choose Spring Creek Farm?

Spring Creek Farm's CSA program is unique because it is affiliated with Alaska Pacific University. As a non-profit, our efforts on the farm go beyond commercial production of vegetables. We like to think of ourselves as not only a Community Supported farm, but also a Community Supporting farm. By supporting us, you help us support APU Kellogg Campus' Mission of serving as “a center for sustainable and socially responsible living through collaborative processes of project-based learning about resilient foods systems and renewable, innovative design.”

We do this through three strategic initiatives:

Production

We provide fresh, healthy, local, and naturally grown food for members of the APU, ANTHC, and greater Palmer and Anchorage communities. We also grow vegetables for the Alaska TILTH program, which helps low-income individuals access locally grown vegetables. Like the last two years, we are offering a sliding scale payment option in order to facilitate more equitable access to nutritious, local food.

Education

Our farm is a living classroom that conducts research and offers educational opportunities promoting local, sustainable, inclusive food systems adapted to Northern Climates. Ongoing educational projects include cover cropping demonstrations, our summer internship, visits from public school classrooms and home school groups, and workshop series for Tribal Conservation Districts and other community members through our AK Resilience Farms collaboration.

Engagement

At Spring Creek Farm, we believe that small, locally supported farms can play an active role in cultivating inclusive, supportive, and resilient communities. By purchasing a CSA share with us, you are helping us to build local partnerships and increase educational programming for local and indigenous foods. As a CSA member, you can take part in our community farm days, and you might even meet a new friend at our farm stand during pickup!

For any questions, please contact us at springcreekfarm@alaskapacific.edu or email Leah directly at lorbin@alaskapacific.edu