

Proposed Hope Bay Farm Box Program FAQ

What is a farm box or Community Supported Agriculture program?

Farm box or subscription or CSA programs involve program members purchasing subscriptions or shares at the start of the growing season. In doing so a commitment or relationship is forged between the grower (in this case Hope Bay Farm) and the eater (you). The grower is paid up front; just at the time they have the greatest cost. In turn, the grower makes a commitment to making every effort to provide its supporting eaters with the freshest produce at a discount. Participating eaters understand that growing food is not without risk and they accept this possibility when they subscribe.

Why is Hope Bay Farm initiating a box program?

For starters, we're interested in diversifying our markets. Over the past 6 years of growing on Pender and participating in the Farmers' Market we've developed a close relationship with a number of core supporters – friends that regularly purchase our produce and who have expressed support for and interest in what we are doing. This box program would further forge these relationships and allow us to provide you with a greater variety of produce. Think of it as a way for us to share some of the variety of produce that up until now was only enjoyed by our family.

How long will the program run?

25 weeks – from mid-April to mid-October 2010. We may also consider a Winter Box Program.

How much will it cost?

Right now we're leaning towards a fixed fee for the season. However, we're anticipating the issue of, "What happens if we are away for a week or two?" Well you could arrange to share your share with friends. Alternatively, if this is a sticky point for folks we could consider the possibility of people subscribing for a set number of weeks, which they would indicate on their signup sheet.

Full Share = \$500 or \$20/week

Partial Share = \$300 or \$12/week

Is there a limit to the number of shares?

Yes. This year to ensure success we are limiting the number this year to 10 full shares. Shares will be available on a first come – first served basis.

Is there a deadline to sign up for this service?

Yes. Right now we're suggesting April 3rd. Folks can sign up and leave a deposit at our booth at the Pender Islands Farmers' Market.

Are there any expected terms and conditions?

Yes. At this time we are considering the following:

Hope Bay Farm agrees to provide a box of farm fresh produce each week for 25 weeks. Variety of produce shall be at the discretion of Hope Bay Farm. While Hope Bay Farm makes every attempt to provide a fair variety and quantity of the highest quality produce to its members, occasionally even we are affected by Acts of God. Subscriptions will start the week of April 18th, 2010 and end the week of October 3rd, 2010. Subscribers agree to pick up produce at the designated location and time. If produce is not picked up the subscriber may forfeit their produce. The weekly allotment does not carry over to any other week or time.

Have you decided on a pickup location?

We are suggesting Hope Bay Farm at 4316 Clam Bay Road be used as the share pickup location for the 2010 season.

Pickup times?

To be discussed. One mid-week day preferred (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday). This provides us with another harvest/market day, which is critical during the warmer months when produce is coming on.

Will you require members to volunteer on the Farm?

We're not sure. It would be helpful to receive some help on harvest days. We could also post a list of tasks and times for the keeners. In the beginning all tasks would be overseen by either Michelle or myself. As part of this relationship we are interested in sharing our knowledge with interested members.

What produce do you expect to offering?

Standard fair – concentrating on high value/quality produce and types and varieties not readily available or when available are of a poor quality. The idea is that we would provide you with high quality, very fresh and absolutely local produce.

Anticipated Crops:

We expect that offerings would be a little light at the beginning of the season and would steadily increase as we head into summer and then decrease again as mid-October rolls around.

Spring Crops	Summer Crops	Fall Crops
Veggies Arugula Beets Early carrots Endive Garlic greens Lettuce Mustard greens Radishes Rhubarb Salad mix Scallions Sorrel Spinach Sugar snap peas	Veggies Beans Beets Cabbage Carrots Cucumbers Endive Fava beans Fennel Garlic scapes Kale Leeks Lettuce Peppers Potatoes (early) Radishes Summer squash Swiss chard Tomatoes Turnips	Veggies Arugula Beets Cabbage Celeriac/celery Garlic Kale Leeks Lettuce Mustard greens Onions (storage) Potatoes Radishes Salad mix Shallots Spinach Sugar snap peas Summer and winter squash Swiss chard Tomatillos Tomatoes
Herbs Chervil Chives Cilantro Oregano Rosemary	Herbs Basil Cilantro Dill Edible flowers Sage Spearmint Oregano Parsley	Herbs Basil Chervil Cilantro Parsley
Fruit Strawberries	Fruit Apples Blackberries Currants Figs Raspberries Melons	Fruit Apples (hopefully!) Raspberries (ditto)