

Dear Earth-Shares CSA members,

January 25, 2011

Happy 2011! We hope you have had a happy and productive fall and winter. It's that time again – enrollment for the 2011 season is beginning. **The registration form is attached; we ask that they be returned by February 15**, when non-renewed shares will be offered to people on the waiting list.

After much consideration and discussion, we've decided to make a couple of changes to our structure and expectations that we believe will better serve the organization and the individual members.

First, we have decided to change the fee and work structure of the half shares. A \$20 premium was added to half shares in 2010 – the first year half shares officially existed – with the thought that proportionately more work goes into supporting a half share relative to a full share. However, as we discussed this inequity, we realized that the main issue is that the gardeners spend more of a working half-shareholder's work hours teaching and demonstrating, than they spend of a working full-shareholder's hours.

Therefore, we decided to drop the \$20 premium from half shares and instead, ask members with a working half-share to contribute 3 additional hours of labor. A half share will now cost half as much as a full share.

Second, we have decided to eliminate formal recognition of "splitters" by the CSA. The need for splitters came about when half shares did not exist; if a full share was too large for a member they needed to find someone to split it with. Now that we offer half shares, there is no need for people to split a full share.

Put another way – each member is the sole point of contact for his/her share, whether full or half. If a member wants to have a friend or family member come to pick up vegetables, work a shift in the gardens, or even contribute financially, that is fine – as long as only one person picks up for that share that week, and the work schedule is a consistent day/time regardless of who comes to do the work.

This does not mean that last year's splitters are not welcome – on the contrary! We hope that you will stay on and purchase shares of your own during this "members only" registration period.

We are happy to report that we will not be increasing the fees this year! - and we are looking forward to a season that promises to be at least as bountiful as last year's.

Watch for upcoming emails regarding the workshare agreement and orientation dates/times. We look forward to seeing you there! If you have questions about any of the topics in this letter (or anything else regarding Earth-Shares CSA!) please feel free to contact any of the board members.

Sincerely,
The Earth-Shares CSA Board

Jeff Lyndenberg, President
Steve Edwards, Gardener
James Elliott, Gardener
Michiko Kissinger, member-at-large
MaryLu Lageman, Gardener
Susanna Leithart-McClelland, Workshare Coordinator
Rachelle Oltean, member-at-large
Jen Russell, Membership Coordinator
Susan Sprigg-Dudley, Treasurer

Earth-Shares CSA Member Registration Form: 2011 Season

Complete this form and return it with your \$100 deposit **by February 15** to our Membership Coordinator:

Jen Russell, 118 Maple Ave., Loveland, OH 45140 ~~ membership@earthsharescsa.org

Checks should be made out to "Earth-Shares CSA." You will be billed for the balance of your fee later.

1. Member contact information. The CSA must have only ONE contact person per membership. If you split a full share last year, you and your splitter should each purchase a half or full share separately.

Name: _____

New this year?

YES

Address: _____

NO

I was a splitter last year

Email _____ (**critical** – all correspondence is by email)

Telephone _____ (your preferred number, whether cell or landline – only for Last minute issues such as work schedule changes)

2. Check the share type for which you wish to register. Requests for working shares are subject to **availability**, and to the **approval** of the Earth-Shares CSA Board. There are a total of 45 working & 30 non-working shares available.

- Full working share - \$500 plus 30 work hours at the farm
- Half working share - \$250 plus 18 work hours at the farm
- Full non-working share - \$700
- Half non-working share - \$350

Those requesting a working share must also complete the Workshare Agreement, which will be emailed separately.

3. Circle one of the following pick-up times; **this will be your day/time for the entire season.** Only ONE person may go through the pick-up line for each share each week. If for any reason you cannot pick up your produce at your designated time, you may come up to 2 days after that time and pull it from the refrigerators, pending availability of items; or you may have someone else pick it up for you.

Wednesdays 4-6 pm **OR** Saturdays 12-2 pm

4. Circle one of the following regarding inclusion of your contact information in the **password-protected member directory**; useful for coordinating pick-ups, etc.

YES, include me **OR** NO, keep my information private

Your signature here indicates your agreement with the expectations outlined above:

Name _____ Date _____