

CSA MEMBER HANDBOOK 2012



Welcome to the 2012 growing season at Snipes Farm Education Center CSA

Thank you for joining our farm. Please read this handbook carefully and keep it for future reference. This handbook, along with the weekly email newsletters and the website, will provide you with all the information you need to make your experience at our farm a good one.

Contact Information

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Snipes Farm and Education Center

Founded as a non profit in 2008, Snipes Farm and Education Center's "outdoor classroom" is located on 25 acres of the historic Snipes Farm in Morrisville, Pennsylvania. SFEC envisions a world where everyone has access to healthy food, open space and the experience of farming, where local economies are strengthened by the preservation of small farms, and where priority is given to sustaining the earth and its natural resources. Our work in the community includes a Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA), farm to school programs with local school children, summer camp and agriculture workshops through the winter.

How does the CSA at Snipes Farm and Education Center work?

The CSA at Snipes Farm and Education Center was established in 2008. The founding members were deeply concerned about safety issues around pesticide use, the availability of locally grown food and had a desire to support local agriculture. While their own lifestyles did not allow them to raise their own food, they responded positively to the initiative of a CSA and were willing to pre-buy their food in this creative new venture.

The majority of work is done by a small team of farmers on 12 acres. The support of the farmers, all of the operating costs, and the capital improvements are carried by the shareholder community. All of the abundance of the vegetables and some fruit is divided among the shareholders. Food left over is donated to the Trenton Soup Kitchen and the pantry at Morrisville Presbyterian Church.

Directions

Snipes Farm and Education Center is located at 890 West Bridge Street, Morrisville, PA 19067. Please see last page for directions to the farm or visit our website at www.snipesfarm.org.

Farm Hours

PICK-UP TIMES

THURSDAYS 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM **RAIN OR SHINE**

U-PICK TIMES

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM EVERYDAY

The farm is open for pick-up on all holidays. (Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, etc)

Feel free to use our picnic tables, visit the playground and chicken yard.

CSA Pick-up Guidelines

1. **Parking** Follow CSA signs to park for weekly distribution. Park and follow walking signs to the upper side of the barn.
2. **Bring Your Own Bags** We do not supply bags for picking up your produce. Please bring baskets, bags or a cooler to transport your vegetables home.
3. **Clip Board** Please make sure to check off your name on the clip board in the barn when picking up your share.
5. **Slate Board** Read the slate for instructions on how much of each item you are allotted. Please do not take extra of any item as we harvest exact amounts.
6. **“Take it or Leave It Bin”** At the end of the pick-up tables there will be a bin for members to leave any vegetables they do not want. Rather than leaving it on the pickup tables where it will be donated at the end of the day, you may place undesired produce in the bin. Then another member can take an extra of something they would like more of.

Pick-your-own crops

In addition to picking up your produce from the barn there are designated pick-your-own crops in the field. These include, but are not limited to,: all perennial herbs such as peppermint and oregano; flowers; cherry tomatoes; tomatillos; hot peppers; beans; soybeans and sugar snap peas, blackberries twice in late July, apples many times from late August through October.

Some of these crops are limited and some are unlimited. You can pick your **weekly allotment, announced** in the email newsletter of these crops **any day of the week**, not only on your assigned pick-up day. Please read the Pick-your-own board carefully.

Once in the field or orchard, look for markers designating what and where you should pick.

What to bring for Pick-your-own

Please bring along scissors or a sharp knife, a container with water for flowers, baskets for your pickings, hat, sunscreen and a water bottle.

Rained out?

If it is raining on Thursday, you are welcome to return **ANY DAY** from 9am - 4pm to pick both the limited and unlimited crops. Occasionally the farmers will close the fields due to excessive rain. Please call ahead to save yourself a trip.

Conflicts on your pick-up day? What to do if you're away or on vacation?

If you are not able to pick up your produce on Thursday, you have 2 options for what to do with the harvest:

☼ **Give your produce away** – to a friend, relative, someone you think might want to join our farm next year. This is by far the best way of advertising for our farm. You do not need to tell us if someone else will be picking up for you, but please let your replacement read this handbook and give them any additional instructions.

☼ **Donate your produce** - Each week many shares are donated to the Bucks County Housing Group and to the Red Cross Homeless Shelter. These shares are made possible by donations from our CSA members and local businesses. Please let us know in advance if you wish your share to be added to one of these groups' weekly pick-ups.

Safety at the farm – READ THIS PLEASE!!!!

1. Please supervise children at all times. Do not let children play on or near any farm equipment and keep track of children while picking in the fields.
2. Drive slowly, under 10 miles per hour, and be mindful of children and small animals.
3. Watch your step – look out for holes, ruts and irrigation. Sturdy shoes are recommended.
4. Please do not enter the hen yard.
5. A SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE FARMERS: Please refrain from smoking and cell phone use in the fields, so that everyone can enjoy the fresh air and serenity of our beautiful farm.
6. Remember your “farm kit” for pick-your-own and volunteer hours: (hat, gloves, sunscreen, water bottles, scissors, bags/boxes).

Work requirement

Each full share is invited to volunteer for a minimum of 4 hours of labor during the growing season. Though not mandatory, we believe that this work is fulfilling, a great family activity, and a terrific community builder for the members at large. Many members find they enjoy the work well beyond the required hours. Work shift descriptions will be available to view on our website throughout the season; members will be able to sign up for work shift online or in the barn. In addition, there are “special project” days when it is time for garlic, onion, and potato harvests, and strawberry and garlic planting. You can always check the website or the calendar in the pickup room in the barn (once weekly pickups have begun) to see what is coming up and to sign up for work shifts.

Social events

We are happy to offer many chances to get together and socialize during the season. We host occasional potluck dinners and other special events. Bring a dish-to-share, and your own place settings.

Please look for potluck and the annual fall campfire dates on the blackboards in the barn, in our newsletters, on our website and via email announcements.

Newsletter

During the harvest season, you'll receive a weekly email newsletter full of news from the farm, announcements, recipes, expected harvest and more! This is your best source, other than the website, for keeping up to date with the goings on at the farm, so please read it carefully each week.

If you have supplied your email address to the farm you will automatically receive a newsletter via email or you can request a paper copy that will be in the barn.

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A
BOUNTIFUL SEASON!!**