



## Farm Share Policies and Member Agreement

In order for you to gain the most from your Green Mountain Girls Farm Share experience, please read the following document carefully as it outlines the policies that keep our farm working safely and smoothly for all. Your farm membership reflects your commitment to help grow and strengthen the local food network. Thank you.

### OUR GROWING PRINCIPLES

Our animals are pasture-raised and fed organic grain. We follow or exceed the animal welfare and organic guidelines for our meat, vegetables, milk and eggs, but we are not yet certified. We will be excited to learn what your impressions are of the taste and quality of our food. Farm share components are grown and raised on our farm unless otherwise noted.

We aim to not only satisfy our customers, we aim to delight. If you ever have concern about a product you purchase from our farm we are eager to hear about it. And if you are not satisfied with a purchase we will, as policy, do the following:

1. Refund your money for that product or replace it with other farm product (your choice),
2. Offer our gratitude for your feedback and apologize for any impact on you, and
3. Request that you assist us in understanding the situation. If you are willing we would like to be able to enlist you in helping us resolve the situation via conversation, saving a product sample, etc.

### FARM SHARE (CSA) MEMBERSHIP OFFERS

We offer two farm share options, both designed to provide significant flexibility for our members while providing a clear commitment, supporting farm viability. We offer pasture-raised, organically managed meats, vegetables, eggs and milk 52 weeks a year. To get a sense of the products offered at various points in the season, you can see our archive of what has been offered each week on our website, under "[On Sale at the Farmstand](#)". The farm offers members a discount that assumes year-round participation.

- **Omnivore's Farm Share**

This is priced **PER PERSON** in each household because it is a free-choice format. You take home what you will eat at a flat rate of \$200/month per person 16 & up and \$100/month per child 10-15 in the household, \$40/month per kid 5-9 and no charge for 1 child (4 and under) per adult in the household. **Every person in the household must be a member.** If choosing an Omnivore's Share for each member of your household is not the right choice for you, we also offer a very flexible Farmstand Membership. A one year commitment is required for the omnivore share. At sign-up we request a \$200 deposit which will be applied to year 2.

Omnivore Share members can pick-up their food in any number of visits. Most people shop weekly on Thursdays when we target our harvest, but depending on your lifestyle you can shop more or less often. Our experience is that for most Omnivore Share members what they take home on average results in about a 15-20% discount on our retail prices. While it is free choice, we ask that you are mindful of the overall monthly price. We have priced the share to assume several cuts of pasture-raised meat each week, but not a different cut of organic, pasture-raised meat each day of the week. We ask that members eat around the farm, utilizing the range of vegetables and meat cuts we offer. Feel free to ask any questions and based on your orders we will offer feedback as well.

- **Farmstand Membership**

Farmstand members commit to spending at least \$100 each month of the year in exchange for a 10% discount on our retail prices. For your regular commitment, through the seasons, we offer you a discount. Farmstand members also follow a free-choice format, but instead of a flat rate, their account is charged for each item they choose. Farmstand

members receive a statement at the end of each month reporting all purchases and the balance in your account. Money can be put into your account at any frequency. Farmstand members agree to stay current with your account. If you do not purchase \$100 in any given month, the balance for that month will be contributed to our subsidized share fund.

To receive the discount on an ongoing basis, you need to be purchasing at least \$100/month consistently, or we will shift you to a simple retail account and still debit your account for your purchases. To qualify for a delivered share, you must purchase at least \$100/month. Delivery or farm shoppers choosing a seasonal membership (less than a full year) will not receive the 10% discount.

## **PAYMENTS**

Payment can be monthly, quarterly or yearly. Checks are preferred. Cash is also accepted; please just note payment with the cash and on your check-out sheet. Payments are due the beginning of the month either dropped at the farmstand, by mail or returned with your delivery tote. We also can now offer automatic payment by credit card for a small additional charge. Please let us know if you would like more information. As a farm share member, you agree to pay your account in a timely manner.

## **CANCELLATION**

Once enrolled you have accepted the terms of automatic recurring billing. You may cancel your membership by speaking with Mari or Laura. We ask for at least a month advance notice so we can make your share available to another paying customer. If you cancel prior to your season or year commitment your deposit and delivery charges will be forfeited.

## **PICK-UP PROTOCOL**

Thursday evening 4-7 pm is the best time to shop for your Omnivore's Share or your Farmstand share. Fresh foods are harvested to hit this target so you will have the largest variety to choose and there is also a nice social buzz at pick up. However, our farmstand is designed for members to shop self-serve Friday -Wed 7am-7pm. We aim to have most vegetables available most of the time for self-serve shopping at the farmstand. **Note that in the growing season (April - Nov) shopping is not available on Thursdays until 4pm, due to a busy harvest schedule.**

If you have chosen to pick up your farm share from a delivery site, please read our **Delivery information**.

## **SHARING THE FARM**

We are eager for you to share the farm. Members are welcome to bring guests and visit favorite animals or tour gardens during Thursday pick up hours. We welcome members on **Thursday evening** to skate or take a dip in the pond, walk, ski or snowshoe our trails or pastures and generally to enjoy this special place.

**BUT SAFETY FIRST!** Be careful when visiting the farm...watch out for trip hazards, vehicles and all hazards. We encourage you to walk the farm road, just watch where you step, avoiding our crop fields, electric fences, and work in progress. **Children must be accompanied closely by an adult.** We want to share the farm, its beauty and all the growth and inspiration. However, it is a working farm and

- materials are piled or stacked for temporary or long-term storage, not in ways safe for climbing;
- animals are busy eating to grow and only on specific announced occasions are receiving visitors in their spaces; only go into pasture or barn enclosures with farmer permission specifically for that visit.
- Pond swimming access is via the small beach on the northwest end. Please **no swimming alone**.

## **Additional Member Benefits**

When you join as an Omnivore Share or Farmstand Member, you also receive a complimentary one hour guided farm tour. This can be scheduled with the farm to happen at any point within your first two months as members. It can be on a Thursday, but can also be any other day Monday –Saturday. Members can bring an unlimited number of friends or family members with them for the complimentary tour. Members also receive a discount for all Farm Experiences, workshops, events, lodging or space rental. Omnivore Share Members receive a 20% discount and Farmstand Members receive a 10% discount. Omnivore Share members also receive a 10% discount on all food items not included in the Share such as our prepared foods and items from our partners in the Floating Bridge Food and Farms Cooperative.

## **RETURNING CLEAN VESSELS**

Jars, lids, plastic containers, egg cartons, etc. are reused by the farm. Members agree to return them clean.

For **milk jars in particular, rinse jars with tepid water to remove all visible milk.** (Note hot or cold water can adhere milk proteins to the glass.) Use a brush and a tablespoon or splash of vinegar to clear any residual milk on the inside, lid threads or outside of the jar. Next, wash the jar(s) and lid(s) with hot soapy water and rinse thoroughly and drain on a rack to dry or wash in a dishwasher. Ensure the jars and lids are dry before replacing the lids.

## **MILK**

Vermont's regulations enable the sale of raw milk & support efforts to ensure a safe, clean product. As part of this law, we must record each sale, have bottles appropriately labeled, meet cooling guidelines, ensure you have toured our milking facilities, record your phone number and we can only sell directly from the farm. See [RuralVermont.org](http://RuralVermont.org) for more details.

## **VACATIONS**

If you are unable to pick up on a Thursday for whatever reason, Omnivore & Farmstand members may shop at the farm any other day. If you will be gone for an extended vacation, it is helpful to know for harvest purposes. The price for our Omnivore share membership assumes 4 weeks of vacation, and natural fluctuations with guests and vacations throughout the year, so the monthly charge is always the same regardless of how many pick-ups you choose each month. Farmstand Members are only charged for what you purchase and your monthly minimum of \$100/month remains the same.

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## **DELIVERY INFORMATION**

For delivery customers, there is a delivery fee of \$100 for seasonal and \$150 for year-round customers. There is also a \$50 deposit for the coolers and totes, which we hold until you are no longer a member. At that time we will return the deposit provided all sets of totes and coolers have been returned. The delivery fee for the year and tote deposit are requested to be paid at sign-up. Milk is the one product that we cannot deliver, as by Vermont state law we can only sell it on farm. Delivery members are welcome to pick-up milk on farm anytime during the week.

### **Order placement**

Orders should be placed by Noon on the day of delivery. You can email them to [Orders@EatStayFarm.com](mailto:Orders@EatStayFarm.com). If you are away from your computer you can call us at: 802-505-9840. Order forms will be available at least 1 day before delivery on our website. See order sheet for details about the products and their package size. We will fill the order to the best of our ability, sometimes we will run short on certain sizes or if everyone requests a large volume of something and the harvest volume was less than anticipated we may have to make some adjustments.

### **Drop off Time & Location**

Farm Shares will be dropped off per decision of the State and Gifford programs. We will aim to be at the delivery locations on the early side of the window, but there are always some fluctuations.

### **What to expect**

We will pack frozen items in a cooler, generally soft-sided, with ice packs. This will be placed inside your plastic tote which will contain your non-frozen items. We will pack your frozen items with adequate cooling for them to stay cold for several hours. On the hottest days, if you leave your frozen items in the cooler for several hours they may begin to thaw, but even then should stay refrigerator cold for many hours. We will do our best to keep your produce in good condition; do let us know if you have any struggles with the delivery system.

### **Changes to order and/or pick-up location**

Any changes/additions to your order or pick-up site can be made by noon on delivery day. For example, if you choose to pick-up on farm or at another delivery site, just let us know by Noon on delivery day for that week.

### **Return Empty Boxes**

Please return your empty tote and/or cooler clean. You can drop off your cooler & tote at the same location as you pick up your share, either when you pick up your share or earlier in the day. You can also drop them at the farm if you visit between pick-ups. You can return **clean** egg cartons, plastic containers, ball jars and ice packs inside your tote.

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## **AGREEMENT**

**By registering and paying for either Omnivore or Farmstand membership, members indicate they have read and agree to the policies above. Thank you for sharing a commitment to sustainable, local food.**