

NCF Board CSA policy
Adopted 11/1/2011

As one of the five channels for distributing produce to the community, the CSA serves many functions for Newton Community Farm. At this time, NCF's Board of Directors thinks the most important objective of the CSA program is to support the Farm's financial stability by providing a predictable and sustainable revenue stream. The Board considers the following objectives as priorities in setting policy on the CSA program's structure and participation rules:

- Mitigation of business risk/steady revenue stream
- Customer continuity
- Provision of ample volunteer pool
- Equal access and inclusiveness
- Engagement with the Farm
- Operational ease/cost effective operations

All of these factors are important and some of them work in opposition to each other. The Board weighed these objectives and has developed CSA policies that are our best effort at establishing the optimal balance among our priorities at this time. In the future, the Board expects to periodically review and revise the CSA priorities and policies to account for lessons learned from actual experiences and to obtain the optimal balance of program objectives at the time.

For 2012 the Board has adopted the following policy:

1. Our CSA will be widely advertised including notice in the TAB, emails to our lists, and on the NCF website
2. All applicants for CSA shares must be a current Friend of the Farm
3. All applications for CSA shares must be accompanied by payments
4. Stage 1: 2011 CSA participants will have a priority two week period to make their application
5. Stage 2: New CSA applications from Newton residents will be collected until three weeks after the close of Stage 1. A lottery will select the sharers if there are more applications than openings.
6. Stage 3: If there are any remaining shares after the completion of Stage 2, CSA applications from Newton or non-Newton residents will be sold on a first-come first-served basis
7. All applicants will be notified that in future years the CSA policies will be evaluated and revised by the NCF Board to ensure proper balance among competing objectives. In particular if the CSA population appears to become exclusive due to prior year participants being given priority, the Board may limit the number of consecutive years that a CSA participant can take a share.

END