



Beech Hill Farm

 A Project of College of the Atlantic

Spring, 2011

Dear interested CSA member,

Happy April! Onions that will be harvested in July are up in the glass house alongside the tomatoes, snap dragons, peppers, and parsley. As we begin the 2011 growing season we are eager to plan for our Community Supported Agriculture program and welcome members both new and returning. We are excited about your interest and wish to offer any information you need to help you decide which share option is right for you. As spaces fill up fast, we recommend you reserve a share as soon as possible.

This spring we will be planting a trial *pick-your-own* garden space for our CSA members to let you all get your hands dirty and see how we can provide some of those summer favorites that we just can't pick enough of. We will plan for a bi-weekly pick day in the summer season for beans, peas, cherry tomatoes, and more. We are also trying out the idea of a market farm share that will give folks more flexibility to shop and choose from the farm stand produce, while supporting the farm in a more intimate way. These shares may be good for someone who will be out of town part of the summer but still wants to be involved. There are limited spaces this trial year so contact us soon! We also want to have more events this summer that include our members, so please let us know if you have interest in getting involved with planning. We are hoping to have more of you come out to the farm, making Beech Hill an even more integral part of your and your family's lives this season and beyond.

The Beech Hill Farm CSA provides members with a box of assorted seasonal produce each week equaling the value of \$25 (though you pay \$20). Members can sign up for one summer or fall 10 week share or both to enjoy the full bounty of the 2011 season. We will be offering our trade box this year, bikers discount (make it out on 2 wheels this year!), and options for work/trade shares. Please let us know if you have ideas about what you want to see in your box or how we can better meet your needs and interests.

Share the Harvest donations are appreciated! Share the Harvest is a program that makes our fresh produce accessible to MDI residents of limited income. Share the Harvest is made possible by community business partnerships and individual donations from community members, and provides vouchers redeemable at the Beech Hill Farm Stand. Contributions of any size are welcome.

The support of our CSA members is critical to the continuation of Beech Hill's mission to provide our COA students and greater community fresh, local, organic produce and to serve as a land resource for Mount Desert and beyond. As one of the only working farms on the island we think it imperative to open our doors to students and island residents in order to promote the vital lifelong relationships of people to farm land. These connections will encourage our community and its young people to make healthy decisions about their diet and future land stewardship, and ultimately to help define farm land preservation in the future. Thank you for supporting the farm, and defining Beech Hill's community this season.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Alisha Strater

Beech Hill Farm Manager (244-5204, beechhillfarm@coa.edu)

Share Options

Full Season Share	\$400	June 29 - November 9 (20 weeks)
Summer Share	\$200	June 29 - August 31 (10 weeks)
Fall Share	\$200	September 7 - November 9 (10 weeks)
Market Farm Share	\$200	June 29 - August 31

Available to the first 10 members to sign up! This share costs \$200 and serves as a credited account valued at \$225 worth of produce that can be spent on the farm stand produce available on the day of use. This is a summer share and must be redeemed by August 31st.

Work/Trade \$300 June 29 - November 9 (20 weeks)

Available for first 5 members that commit! For a reduced full share at \$300 (20 weeks) share members can work Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am. This option is great for members who are looking to have greater involvement in the farm and get the behind the scenes on running a CSA.

Pick Up Days

From June through August share members must come to the farm on Wednesdays between noon and 5 pm to pick up their shares. Beginning in September we will offer a drop off at College of the Atlantic (in addition to farm pickup). For those interested, shares will be dropped at the Gates Auditorium porch after 3 pm on Wednesdays.

How to Sign Up!

Fill out the form below and send it to the farm with your initial payment. Only a check will secure your place. Please mail your check to Beech Hill Farm, 171 Beech Hill Road, Mount Desert, ME 04660.

2011 CSA SIGN-UP

Name _____ Phone _____

Address: _____ Email _____

Please Choose one of the following for each option:

Share Option

- Full season share \$400
- Summer share \$200
- Fall share \$200
- Market Farm Share \$200
- Work/Trade (full season) \$350

Pick Up Option

- o Farm Pickup
- o COA pickup (beginning in September)

SHARE THE HARVEST

I would like to donate \$_____ to the Share the Harvest program at Beech Hill Farm which will make fresh organic produce available to more people in my community this season. COA will provide tax information for all donations.

PREFERENCES

- I would like to participate in the pick-your-own garden (this helps us to better this garden space for the upcoming season)
- I would like to see meat options in the CSA
- I would be interested in additional shares if available earlier in the spring. Please contact me for details.
- I would like to see more/or less of these items this coming season:
- I would like to help coordinate and plan events at Beech Hill Farm this season (if you can't commit to planning, please put down some ideas of what you would like to see this season at the farm):