

Shundahai Farm 2010 CSA Survey

253 Maple Road, Storrs, CT 06268, (860) 429-0695

Green - CSA Members Feedback

Brown - Our Responses

	Very Unsat.	Unsatisfied	So-so	Satisfied	Very Satis.
How would you rate your overall experience ? -----	0	0	0	3	35
How satisfied were you with the quality of vegetables? -----	0	0	0	1	37
How can we improve? DELICIOUS- we love the spicy greens! Sun gold tomatoes!., no improvement needed; excellent quality, tasted great!					
How satisfied were you with the selection of vegetables? -----	0	0	1	12	24
What else would you like us to grow? see below					
How satisfied were you with the quantity of veges? -----	0	0	0	11	26
What should we grow more of?					

asparagus (2) - We have asparagus growing, but it takes 3 years before you can start to harvest, stay tuned!

beans, green (3), dried - We will try to do a better job with the beans in 2011.

berries (2) - We should have raspberries this year and we will be planting more. In addition we plan to plant strawberries, but they won't be ready until the following year.

broccoli (5) - We'll expand production for 2011

brussel sprouts - We'll look into it for 2011.

cabbage, red, arrowhead - early in the season - We'll look into it for 2011.

carrots (2) - We'll expand production for 2011

celery (2) - We'll look into it for 2011.

corn (3), cornmeal type - This is a crop that requires a lot of land, and the return is low (although labor is low also). We probably won't do too much.

cucumbers (3) - We'll do more plantings next year for a continuous supply during the summer months.

eggplant - We had quite a bit in 2010, we'll expand production, but the intent is to do so relative to the # CSA shares.

fennel - We'll look into it for 2011.

garlic (2) - We will have a lot more garlic for sale next year (~1000 bulbs versus 100 this year) - it is already in the ground. At this time, we are not planning to do bulk sales.

herbs (3) - more, more regularly, rosemary, sage - Will do!

onions (3), red - Will do!

parsnip (2) - We'll look into it for 2011.

peas (6) - Will do!

peppers - red - We had quite a bit in 2010, we'll expand production, but the intent is to do so relative to the # CSA shares.

potatoes (5), red - We will do more fall potatoes in 2011, but we will not be planning for bulk sales.

summer squash, zucchini - We'll do more plantings next year for a continuous supply during the summer months.

sweet potatoes (5) - We planted a few beds in 2010, but the yields were quite low. We'll try again, but won't expand too much.

tomatoes (2), other varieties, more of (2), earlier, later, cherry - We will try to pull the season earlier a bit, but this is a heat loving crop. We'll add some new varieties as well.

winter squash, different types of, acorn, spaghetti - We will grow more and add new varieties.

What can we do better?

An idea: since I loved your recipes, maybe they could be emailed (only got them when I picked up, not when husband picked up) - We plan to put them all on the website this winter; we don't use email enough to send them out that way, however.

Can you do any berries or fruit? Grapes? - we'll have some raspberries in 2011, and more in 2012. We also plan to have strawberries in 2012. No plan for grapes at this time.

five plus

great job

nothing - it was great

option of individual selection or pre-boxed selection - We are seriously considering it.

We love Shundahai farm CSA!!

you are wonderful, very kind and caring

Would you recommend us to a friend? Yes (38) No (0) If not, why not?

If you know someone that is interested, please have them contact us or provide their name, email and phone separately

Would you like to be more involved with the farm? Less (0) Good As-Is (27) More (13)

If more involvement is desired, what do you have in mind?

Group Workdays (11)

Individual Work Times (9)

Comments _____

1 morning per week

a few more choices with dates

could do sorting jobs, etc. no hard lifting or bending.

depends on my own work schedule - up in the air right now

depends on our health & times

spring, summer, fall solstice gatherings

weather matters. I can't have much sun exposure - thus later in the day is better.

whatever is most helpful

Did you feel that our vegetable pricing was: Too High (6) Okay (32) Too Low (1)

Pricing: judge by fair compensation to yourselves. :) Thank you!

OK but a bit too high

a little high but it was certainly made up by the \$50 in merchandise we received from you.

Wished our money bought more veges. In past CSAs we've been involved with it seemed we got more each week, for a comparable price. May have been partly because usually not as thoroughly washed (if at all). Washing is a lot of work, on picking days, 2/3rds of our time is spent washing.

If we sold unwashed veges, we could sell for less, but our quality is high because we determine the 2nds while washing. A lot of questionable veges would slip passed us if they weren't washed and carefully inspected.

We might be interested in becoming "working" members if a discount were available. We have considered it, we are a bit nervous about working members because we don't want people to feel obligated to come, and we fear that we'll get some workers that are more work for us.

slightly high

We added up our expenses so far this year, and we were a bit shocked. Our net profit for the year was less than \$10,000, for the two of us... Next year we expect to do substantially better, but still unlikely enough to cover our personal expenses (even though they are quite low). Our prices are comparable to other local farmers of similar farming practices. Our prices may be slightly higher than some organic veges at the store, but you and we know how this food is grown. We do not try to save money when it comes to our soil, we are working to optimize soil health for food with the best possible nutritional value. In addition, we put environmental concerns at the forefront.

Due to these issues, we need to increase some crop prices next year. Even with this, the long-term prospects for the farm are uncertain.

Duration of the CSA - should it: Start-Earlier (9) Start-Later (0) End-Earlier (2) End-Later (4) No-Change (24)

Comments

as season dictates
depends on growing season
everything depends on the weather
it seems too cold and dark at the end
It would be nice to have your vegetables as long as possible.
longer season great if manageable
miss you in the winter
we loved the veges, so any extension would be great

Were you satisfied with the CSA structure, where you chose your vegetables and had a debit account, or would you prefer a "surprise" box in which we pack vegetables we choose for you each week, like most other CSAs?

Current-Method (30) Box (5) Other

choice between each week
definitely not the box
I like knowing and also a table of extra items from which to chose
I like that I could choose what I wanted so there was no waste.
I love being able to choose our veggies - it allows to plan ahead!
I wouldn't want a surprise box
Loved it!
more flexible (electronic) selection method would be good, or providing the option of pre-packaged box;
expanding to 80 shares using on-site selection challenging - **Yes, we will need to do something so that we can be more efficient when a lot of people show up at one time**
prefers the box a bit; when you have extra, this would be helpful

For the 2011 CSA, what days for vegetable pickup work best for you?

M Tu W Th Fri Sat
11 24 16 20 10 7

Friday might be best so that we have the weekend to cook.

What time range?

3-6 (14), 4-6 (3), 6, 2-5, 2-6, 3-6:30, 5-7, >2 during school year, summer flexible, 12-6, fri afternoon, sat morning, late afternoon, early evening, PM

Would you prefer us to deliver vegetables to your house (for an additional fee)?

Yes (1) No (32)

I would pay an additional fee for delivery but don't mind picking up at all and I think doing delivery would be a lot of extra work for you. Also nice when I pick up I get to pick out my own veggies and quantities.

Are you interested in eggs though the CSA (\$5-\$6 per dozen, depending on organic feed costs)?

Yes (13) No (20)
Maybe (3)

Interested in eggs \$4-\$5; your prices were not excessive, but a little on the high side.
the price seems high compared to other organic sources
too much \$
I like the egg idea but if possible \$4-\$5 would be easier to manage.
price is steep

We understand people's reaction, based on other pricing. For us, organic feed cost per dozen eggs is \$2-3 because we are small scale producers without large order feed discounts. We are also selective of what feed we buy, it costs ~\$22 / 50# bag. We buy our chicks as day olds, and feed them only organic grain from the start. We have movable chicken coops, and put them on new ground every 2-4 days. Conventional layer chickens are in cages where they cannot all fit, they are forced to climb on top of each other. For some reason, this increases yield. "Free Range" eggs are required to have "access" to the outdoors, and this is usually a minuscule area relative to the number of chickens, and the soil is devoid of life. To spend an hour a day caring for our chickens, year round (even when they aren't producing), means we need to make \$2-3 a dozen and sell at least 6 dozen a day. Unfortunately, we won't be able to sell eggs at the current interest level.

Please feel free to make additional comments (on the reverse too if you need more space)

**This has been a wonderful CSA!! We especially have loved having so many greens all summer & fall!
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

We really enjoyed getting our veggies from your farm each week, and eating them! We are sorry to have the growing season come to an end! The work day was a lot of fun too. Thank you for all your hard work growing delicious veggies for us! We will definitely recommend you to family and friends. (University/teachers - let them know 1/2 shares are available; don't have to pick up every week)

Can't wait for next year

Potluck early in the season, at the start combined with a work session; fewer leafy greens: chard, beet greens, spinach all go into salads - we like them but they are too alike.

We were extremely happy as you can see from the survey, with the produce and the variety, as well as choosing our own produce weekly.

I'm so glad we were able to join this year; we loved getting fresh veges every week, and the process was always a pleasure! Thank you!

I love your lettuces, spinach, chard and beets. White salad turnips were a wonderful discovery.

I work with boyscouts and wonder if some of the boys could help plant and harvest; this would help them complete their gardening merit badge.

Wonderful job!

This worked out SO well for me! Loved it!

Wonderful!

**Have more share tier options, ie \$300 for smaller families or people who can't afford the initial \$400
Excellent! Keep up the good work! We enjoyed cooking / eating all!**

You're doing a terrific job!

You have kindly called when I did not come and placed my order out on the table for the next day.

Veery accomodating! Much appreciated!

This was a good experience and we will certainly continue.

We liked the variety and tried new vegetables. Raluca was so helpful with ecipes and cooking tips. I really enjoyed coming out each week and the salad mixes were the best, we will miss the mixes all winter long!

Looking forward to another membership next year

I thought it was wonderful and enjoyed getting to know you. You are lovely people and I look forward to coming again next year. I already miss those wonderful tomatoes and lettuce!

Thank you!

We thought the quality was exceptional. Enjoyed the garden tour and meeting the family, potluck, a real community builder.

This has been a great experience for us. We can really appreciate all the hard work which goes into growing organic vegetables. We will join again! Thank you!