

**Dear Earth-Shares CSA Member,**

This past year, **Karen, Toni, Tasha and Mary Lu – along with our 22 work share members and UC student interns– grew and harvested an incredible 20,479 pounds of produce.** That means this past year you took home and enjoyed over 180 pounds of fresh, locally grown vegetables per whole share or 90 per half share. This was another year of good production. *However, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a risk-sharing partnership between the farmers who grow our food and the people who eat it.*

**Earth-Shares CSA produces fresh, delicious, locally-grown organic produce at a modest price, year after year.**

Each year in May our harvest begins with leafy spinach and varieties of green and red lettuce. Soon the broccoli comes in and then kale, peppers, and early tomatoes. Our harvest increases through the summer, bringing us more than two dozen kinds of fresh produce, picked right in the hours before you come for your share—corn, green beans and wax beans, hoop house and heirloom tomatoes, red and green peppers, chard, onions, potatoes, squashes, sweet potatoes. Herbs too: basil, parsley, dill. In 2017, as we hope and plan again to enjoy similar value but remember Mother Nature will always be a factor.

**This year we would like to have 30 working shares to assist in our gardens.**

Earth-Shares members have benefitted from more-bountiful-than-anticipated harvests, but we also share the risks inherent in farming, mostly nature's unpredictable effects like weather and pests that can damage or destroy crops. By paying a pre-contracted wage to our gardeners and a pre-contracted price for a share of the harvest, CSA members blunt the impact of such setbacks instead of leaving them solely on the farmer's shoulders. In exchange for this mitigation, our gardeners accept capped income rather than earning additional financial profit in years of abundance.

- 1) This year's price is almost certain to continue to be an amazing value; as always, it is impossible to monetize the value of food that is local and as fresh as ours is.
- 2) Revenue from member share sales funds **gardener wages**. Earth-Shares' prices have not allowed us to pay a true living wage to the farmers who work long hours year after year to grow the delectable produce we all enjoy. Our CSA's mission of sustainability includes not only our organic farming practices but also paying decent wages to the farmers who make it all happen.

Our goal is always that the **quantity and quality of our produce** distributed in a share will not decline. Earth-Shares remains competitively priced **compared to other area CSAs**, none of which carry organic certification.

**Now is the time to reserve your share and renew your commitment to Earth-Shares CSA.  
Send in your \$150 deposit to reserve your spot and help make 2017 another fantastic season!**

Our farmers perform critical tasks in the off-season: ordering seeds and starts, repairing equipment, and developing a crop plan. Paying a deposit on your share shows your commitment and helps with accurate planning for the coming season.

You already know that as an Earth-Shares member, you're part of something special. You're cutting agribusiness out of the equation and enabling local farmers to live and work in our community. On behalf of the entire Earth-Shares CSA board, thank you. We look forward to working with you to bring the very best fresh, local, organic produce to your table once again this coming season.

Sincerely,



John Robinson, President

**Board Members:**

John Robinson, President  
John McCarthy, Treasurer  
Amy Grethel, Secretary  
Mary Hewitt, Membership  
Julia Almaguer  
Bill Davis  
Wayne Woodward

**Farmers:**

Karen Huseman, Garden Manager  
MaryLu Lageman, Farm Manager  
Tasha Black, Assistant Gardener

**Mail your deposit to** Earth-Shares CSA, 932 O'Bannonville Road, Loveland, Ohio 45140