

Dear Earth-Shares CSA Member,

Welcome to the start of the 2018 season. Earth-Shares invites you to renew membership at this time as our gardeners finalize plans for the 2018 growing season. Garden plots are being planned, seeds and compost ordered and help with using all of those vegetables is right around the corner! This past year, **Mary Lu, Tasha and Jason – along with our work share members – grew and harvested our produce.** However, this was a challenging year for production with some crop failures but on a positive note a lot of new types of greens and a good crop rotation of green beans were enjoyed by all. Our goal is to always provide as much as we can during a growing season. *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 Certified Organic Non GMO 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 2018, 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 a good 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 fund our **gardener wages**. **Earth-Shares' prices will not be increased this year.** So a Whole Share will be stay at \$510, Work Share at \$385 and a Half Share will be \$285.
- 3) 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.

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 2018 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.

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**.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Robinson', written in a cursive style.

John Robinson, President

Board Members:

John Robinson, President
John McCarthy, Treasurer
Julia Almaguer, Secretary
Mary Hewitt, Membership

Farmers:

MaryLu Lageman, Farm Manager
Jason Reeder, Gardener
Tasha Black, Gardener

Mail your deposit to Earth-Shares CSA, 531 East Loveland Ave., Loveland, Ohio 45140

NOTE: This is a new mailing address.