

Spring Creek Farm CSA

Community Supported Agriculture

production

Providing fresh vegetables for shareholders, anti-hunger organizations, and our community



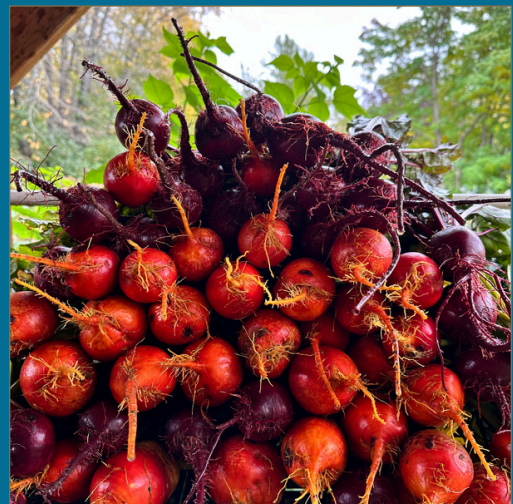
engagement

Offering opportunities for on-farm participation and community building



education

Gathering and sharing information on agriculture and food systems in Alaska





What is a CSA?

CSA stands for community supported agriculture, a concept conceived in order to support small farms that wish to market their products locally and directly to customers in their communities. Customers purchase CSA shares at the beginning of the season and receive a distribution of vegetables each week throughout the farm season.

By paying up front, CSA members support small farms by sharing in the risk of growing vegetables. The idea has helped support local food production around the country and the world and encourages customers to get to know their farmers directly, shortening the food chain and giving people access to information about how their food is grown.

What's in a CSA share?

Spring Creek Farm produces a wide range of vegetables including lettuce, mixed salad greens, carrots, beets, potatoes, cucumbers, peppers, herbs, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, bok choy, kale, swiss chard, peas, turnips, radishes, zucchini and more.

In June and early July, your share will include more leafy greens and salad items. In July and early August we will add some root vegetables like carrots and beets in addition to larger items like cauliflower, broccoli, cucumbers, and zucchini. In the fall, we will keep distributing many of those vegetables while adding the heartier fall crops: potatoes, Brussels sprouts, and more root vegetables.

Why choose Spring Creek Farm?

Spring Creek Farm's CSA program is unique because it is affiliated with Alaska Pacific University. As a non-profit, our efforts on the farm go beyond commercial production of vegetables. We like to think of ourselves as not only a Community Supported farm, but also a Community Supporting farm. By supporting us, you help us support APU Kellogg Campus' Mission of serving as “a center for sustainable and socially responsible living through collaborative processes of project-based learning about resilient foods systems and renewable, innovative design.”

We do this through three strategic initiatives:

Production

We provide fresh, healthy, local, and naturally grown food for members of the APU, ANTHC, and greater Palmer and Anchorage communities. We also grow vegetables for the Alaska TILTH program, which helps low-income individuals access locally grown vegetables. Like the last two years, we are offering a sliding scale payment option in order to facilitate more equitable access to nutritious, local food.

Education

Our farm is a living classroom that conducts research and offers educational opportunities promoting local, sustainable, inclusive food systems adapted to Northern Climates. Ongoing educational projects include cover cropping demonstrations, our summer internship, visits from public school classrooms and home school groups, and workshop series for Tribal Conservation Districts and other community members through our AK Resilience Farms collaboration.

Engagement

At Spring Creek Farm, we believe that small, locally supported farms can play an active role in cultivating inclusive, supportive, and resilient communities. By purchasing a CSA share with us, you are helping us to build local partnerships and increase educational programming for local and indigenous foods. As a CSA member, you can take part in our community farm days, and you might even meet a new friend at our farm stand during pickup!



Is Spring Creek Farm organic?

While Spring Creek Farm does not pay to be Certified Organic through the USDA, we use practices that match or exceed those standards. We have never used chemical fertilizers or pesticides on our fields, and manage soil and plant health through cover cropping, the addition of compost and organic fertilizers, crop rotation, and natural pest management techniques. If you have any other questions about our growing practices, please contact us!

How big is a CSA share?

We offer two share sizes. A large share contains enough fresh vegetables to feed a typical couple or small family each week. A small share is designed to meet the vegetable needs of an individual or couple. A large share will range from 7-15 items and weigh approximately 6-15 lbs a week. A small share will range from 5-10 items a week, and weigh approximately 4-8 lbs .

When does the CSA start?

The CSA starts the second or third week of June, depending on the weather.

How long does the CSA last?

The CSA program runs for 16 to 18 weeks as weather allows





Who will be growing my food?

Leah Corbin, the Farm Manager at Spring Creek, has seven years of farming experience between Vermont and Alaska. Before arriving in Alaska, Leah spent five years working on both organic and conventional vegetable farms in Vermont. She attended the University of Vermont for Sustainable Agriculture, graduating in 2021. Leah works with an assistant manager, groups of students, farm interns, community partners and volunteers to grow the vegetables at Spring Creek Farm.

How do I sign up?

We now have an online registration and payment option, which you can find on the APU website. Registration opens in February and lasts until the end of March or our program fills to capacity.

What if I can't pick up my share?

If you cannot pick up your share on a given week, you may designate a friend or neighbor to pick up for you. Unfortunately, we cannot provide "make-up" shares for people that have missed pickups. With notification, however, shares can be picked up at the the farm in Palmer between the scheduled pickup day and Sunday evenings. Missed shares that are unspoken for are donated to the Mat-Su Food Bank or another local anti-hunger organization.



Updates this year?

Workshops and Farm Training

In addition to the educational farm internship we offer each year, along with partner organizations, we are continuing to work with Tribal Conservation Districts across the state to host knowledge exchanges and farming workshops that are open to the public. We are also working with UAF and a solar developer to provide training for farm technicians performing research in agriculture plots located between rows of solar panels.



New varieties!

This year we are very excited to be growing garlic again, which will allow for garlic scapes earlier in the summer and full heads later on. We are trialing Romanesco, purple cauliflower, and shelling peas as well. While we strive to offer a diverse selection to members, it can be fun for both the members and the farmers to have a more unusual variety in the mix.

For any questions, please contact us at springcreekfarm@alaskapacific.edu or email Leah directly at lorbin@alaskapacific.edu