



2017 Member Handbook

Welcome to the 2017 season at Prairie Drifter Farm!

We are happy to have you on board for a season of great eating. In this handbook:

- Introduction to your Farmers**
 - Frequently Asked Questions**
 - List of Member Events**
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 - Member Calendar**
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June has arrived which means that fresh vegetables will be just around the corner. We are grateful to be able to do the work of raising food for your families and we thank you for supporting local, sustainable agriculture in your community. Prairie Drifter Farm is certified organic and dedicated to creating and maintaining healthy soils, habitat and diversity on the farm.

As a CSA member, you have purchased a share to receive either a weekly (full share) or bi-weekly (half share) box of produce each week. Your share boxes will be filled with what is fresh and in season and will include a newsletter detailing what is in the box, recipes, preparation tips, and news from the farm. We hope through this experience with your farm, you will learn to eat and prepare new foods, have a sense of the rhythm of the seasons in Minnesota, and make a connection to the land your food is grown on and the community around you.



Joan, Freya, Abe and Nick O.



Nick H., Claire, Abe, Freya, and Siri

Your Farmers

We would like to introduce you to the crew who will be growing produce for you this season. **Nick and Joan**, along with our kids Abe(6) and Freya(3) have owned and operated Prairie Drifter Farm since 2010. We are both teachers by trade and have taught environmental education in Minnesota, California and Argentina. Nick has a Master's in education, focusing on farm-based education. Our work in environmental education and travel throughout many rural areas in South and Central America brought us to farming. We have a passion for learning and educating and the farm has become our palette for education in many different ways. The kids continue to find and develop their niche on the farm each season. Abe loves any chance to steer the golf carts and work on tractors with Papa. He also loves taste testing veggies right out of the field. Freya is our resident worm, red-bellied snake, chicken, and rabbit wrangler. They both love working on irrigation and going out to weed with the crew!

Nick and Claire work full-time on the farm. **Nick** was born and raised in northern Illinois. He graduated from Illinois State University in 2010 with degrees in English and Math and since then has held jobs as a farmhand for a corn and soybean farming operation, a sales associate at an independent bookstore, and an information technology analyst for both government and corporate organizations. He is taking a break from his IT career to explore his interest in local, organic farming and is very excited to be a member of the Prairie Drifter crew. Nick's other interests include (in alphabetical order because he was an English major in college) baseball, basketball, biking, bowling, camping, craft beer, hiking, literature, and sustainability.

Claire grew up on a corn and soybean farm in central IL, but didn't find her niche in farming until after working on a no-spray vegetable farm called Love Dove Farms in Maryland. She graduated with a B.S. in Organismal Biology and Public Outreach from Illinois State University, and recently received her M.S. in Applied Plant Sciences/Agroecology from University of Minnesota- Twin Cities. At the U, she studied organic dry bean production systems and initiated a breeding program for winter hardy hairy vetch to be used as a winter annual cover crop in MN. After all that data crunching, Claire is enjoying getting her hands dirty farming again at Prairie Drifter Farm. In her free time, Claire likes to cook, hike, bike, write letters, build fires, and feed her kombucha and sourdough pets.

Siri is a part-time crew-member this season. After a 15 year exploration of life's many intrigues, Siri returned to her hometown of New London. Starting with a Bachelor's of Fine Arts from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, she transitioned into craft jam making which lead to exploring urban farming in Detroit. In falling in love with farming, she realized that a winter career would help significantly with funding, so she took up a family member's suggestion and started working at the South Pole in the winters. Five Antarctic seasons later, she's spent summers working on veggie farms, a goat dairy, and the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture. This summer, in between hanging out with the Prairie Drifters and a smattering of other jobs, she's launched her own farming enterprise, raising rotationally pastured heritage turkeys for Thanksgiving 2017. Find out more at: www.floatingislandsfarm.com

We also have a great crew of work share members including **Courtne, Dani, Jared, Samantha, Terri, and Tracy** who will be helping us with field work and harvest. We are grateful to this crew who works through rain, wind, sun, insects, heat, and cold and does it with enthusiasm and a sense of humor.

Frequently Asked Questions

When do CSA deliveries begin?

- CSA pick-up begins on Tuesday, June 13th for our Litchfield members and Thursday, June 15th for our Sartell and St. Cloud members. Full shares are every week; half shares are every other week.

HALF SHARE MEMBERS: we will be letting you know by early June if you are a Week A or Week B member. See the end of the handbook for a calendar of pick-up dates for half share members.

- We send reminder emails about your CSA pick up each week to the email address(es) you provided upon registration. Please put our email address in your safe list so reminder emails and newsletters do not go to your trash. **If you have gmail, check your “Promotions” tab for email newsletters from the farm. Drag the emails to the “Primary” tab to always receive them in your Primary inbox.**

What are my responsibilities?

- Pick up your share each week at the location and time specified, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- Read the newsletter that comes with your share box. Newsletters provide information about the veggies in your box, recipes to try, and news about the farm. They also let you know about upcoming events at the farm. Newsletters will also be emailed using Mail Chimp.
- Return your CSA box to your pick-up site and keep it clean. You can unload your box into your own bags at your pick-up site and leave the empty box.
- Please pay your remaining balance, if applicable, by June 1st. You should have recently received a reminder of your balance. If you need a more flexible payment arrangement, please contact us – we are happy to accommodate.

How do I pick up my CSA share?

- Take one CSA box from the stack at your pick-up site. Return the empty box to your pick-up site on or before your next pick-up day as we reuse boxes throughout the season. Treat the boxes gently and keep clean so they can last as long as possible.
- You can bring bags to transfer produce into at your pick-up site and leave the box at the site so you do not have to remember to bring it back next time.
- Check your name off of the share member pick-up list so we know you picked up your share.

What if I’m going to be late to my pick-up site?

If you are unable to pick up your share during the pick-up window, please consider the following:

- Call us (320.269.1057, delivery cell phone number) to let us know you will be late. If we can make alternate arrangements with your pick-up site, we will do so.

PLEASE NOTE: If prior arrangements have NOT been made, share boxes left after the pick-up window will be given away or taken to the food shelf or women’s shelter as our pick-up sites do not have refrigeration space to hold CSA boxes.

What do I do if I’m going on vacation or cannot pick up my share?

- Have a neighbor, family member or friend pick up your share for you. You do not need to contact us if someone else is picking up your share. Just let them know the process, including checking off your name.
- Have us donate your share to the local food shelf or women’s shelter.
- If you have a half share, we can usually accommodate having you pick up during your off week. Please let us know by email at least two weeks in advance so that we can plan accordingly.
- If you have a full share, you can choose to receive a double box one week.

How does it work if I am sharing a share?

- If you chose to share a share with another family, you will pick up one box total from your pick-up site on your scheduled pick-up day (either every week or every other week depending on if you are a full or half share member). Some families choose to divide the box up. Some families choose to rotate who picks up the box. You decide amongst families how to divide your share.

How do I get in touch with my farmers at Prairie Drifter Farm?

Joan and Nick Olson
61369 223rd St
Litchfield, MN
prairiedrifterfarm.com

- 320.693.5502 (Home)
- 320.269.1057 (Cell: Use this number for contact on delivery days)

The best way to contact us is by email since we can respond when it is convenient and we are often outside. If you call, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Follow us on [Facebook](#) to see pictures and get updates from the farm. You will receive additional resources, updates and ideas to make the most of your CSA share.

2017 CSA Member Events

- Kids Day at the Farm:
Sat. morning, Aug 5, 10:00-11:30am
Enjoy a day at the farm digging in the dirt, playing games, and exploring the farm. Kids must be accompanied by an adult.
- Farm Walkabout for Adults:
Tues. evening, Aug. 22, 7:00pm
Enjoy an August evening walk around the farm with the opportunity to sample beer from Finnegans, a great supporter of the Harvest for the Hungry program of which we are a part. Adults only.
- Fall Share Member Potluck:
Sat, Sept. 16, 4:00-6:00pm
Gather to celebrate the season and fall harvest.
- Scheduled visit:
If you want to come out and visit and/or help out, contact us ahead of time to make arrangements.

Additional Items for Purchase or Add-ons

- **Bulk Produce:** Many members requested the ability to purchase produce in bulk for freezing/preserving (e.g. quantities of broccoli, onions, squash, etc beyond the CSA box). As bulk quantities of these crops are available we will let you know so that you can order bulk produce. Additional bulk produce is available at a wholesale price for CSA members.
- **Specialty Shares:** We will have specialty shares for purchase as they become available (Pesto Share, Bean Share, Greens Share for Freezing, Tomato Canning Share). More info to come in newsletters.
- **Autumn Share:** An optional Autumn Share will be available in limited quantities at the end of October including carrots, potatoes, onions, winter squash, garlic, carrots, beets, and more!
- **Honey:** Wayne and Cindy Rusch of Rusch Farms in Hutchinson are keeping 20 bee hives at the farm this season. Honey from their hives will be available for purchase in the fall.
- **Fruit Shares:** We will be offering strawberry, currant, pear and apples shares from our friends Andy and Irene at York Farm in Hutchinson. We will email our members when these shares become available.
- **Beef Shares:** Sign up for a grass-fed beef share from Tyler and Kate, our friends from Early Boots Farm, which includes an 1/8 beef in the spring and an 1/8 beef in the fall. Pick-up in St. Cloud at one of our CSA pick-up sites and at our farm in Litchfield will be arranged. Contact Tyler and Kate directly to sign up for a beef share by emailing them at earlyboots@gmail.com or calling 320-249-1841.
- **Harvest for the Hungry:** Consider donating to the Harvest for the Hungry program which connects CSA farms to local food shelves. This program brings local, sustainably-raised food into homes of families in need. More info on our website and to come with your first CSA box.

Take Note

- We send **email newsletters** in addition to paper newsletters you receive each week with your CSA Share. If you have a gmail account, check your Promotions tab for these emails. You can drag them into your Primary tab and choose to always have them delivered to your Primary inbox so you don't miss newsletters. If you use other email clients, check your trash to make sure you are not missing emails from the farm.
- **Visit our website** for a wealth of info including tips for making the most of your share, a Veggie ID guide, recipes, storage/preserving information, member events, great cookbooks, and more.

Fresh local produce coming soon to a pick-up location near you!

Prairie Drifter Farm Pick-up Sites:

Natural Food Co-op, 230 Sibley Avenue, Litchfield, *Tuesdays, 3:00-6:00pm*

Phone: 320-693-7539

Share boxes in the back room of the Co-op. A Co-op employee will direct you to your produce.

Prairie Drifter Farm, 61369 223rd St, Litchfield, *Tuesdays, 3:00-8:00pm*

Phone: 320-693-5502

Share boxes in the walk-in cooler in the yellow packshed.

Sol Wellness Center, 261 Atlantic Ave West, Dassel, *Tuesdays, 4:00-6:00pm*

HealthPartners Clinic, 2251 Connecticut Avenue South, *Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm*

Phone: 320-253-5220 or 320-492-8376 (Contact at HP: Greg Bockrath)

Share boxes in the delivery room on the main level of HealthPartners. Check in at the front desk and they will direct you to your produce.

CentraCare Health Plaza, St. Cloud, 1900 Centracare Circle, *Thursdays, 4:00-8:00pm*

Share boxes will be in the Woodlands Entrance.

Good Earth Food Co-op, 2010 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud, *Thursdays 4:30-8:00pm*

Phone: 320-253-9290

Share boxes in the front of the store under the window by the eating counter. If you need assistance, please ask a Co-op employee.

St. Cloud Hospital, 1406 Sixth Avenue North, St. Cloud, *Thursdays 5:00-7:00pm*

Phone: 320-251-2700 ext. 53625

Share boxes will be in the lobby of the North Entrance of the hospital. Note this is a change in location from last year.

Woodland Hills Neighborhood, 1700 Woodland Road, *Thursdays, 5:30-7:00pm*

Phone: 320-253-9549

Share boxes will be in the entryway of the house. Knock or ring the doorbell.

Many thanks to our generous partners for serving as pick-up sites!

2017 Prairie Drifter Farm Share Member Calendar

UPDATED

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Week 1 – B

Week 2 – A

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Week 3 – B

Week 4 – A

Week 5 – B

Week 6 – A

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Week 7 – B

Week 8 – A

Week 9 – B

Week 10 – A

Week 11 – B

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Week 12 – A

Week 13 – B

Week 14 – A

Week 15 – B

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Week 16 – A

Week 17 – B

Week 18 – A

PLEASE NOTE:

Litchfield deliveries on TUESDAYS

Sartell/St. Cloud deliveries on THURSDAYS

FULL shares pick up every week

HALF shares pick up every other week

- *Week A* member dates are in **Green** on calendar
- *Week B* member dates are in **Orange** on calendar

Litchfield Members – Please note on Week 3 that we will not be delivering shares on Tuesday, July 4. They will be delivered on Thursday, July 6 instead.

This calendar has been updated to reflect the changed start dates due to the storm. Note that we are starting on Week B.