



2023 Member Handbook

Welcome to the 2023 season at Prairie Drifter Farm!

We are glad you could join the farm this year as a CSA member. This handbook includes:

Introduction to your Farmers

Frequently Asked Questions

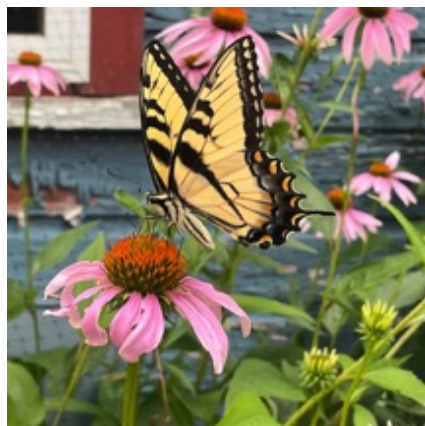
Add-ons

CSA Pick-up Sites

Member Calendar

2023 marks our 13th season growing food on this land. As you already know, we chose to cut back on production this year so the start of this season has felt quite different than the last 10 years. We are looking forward to growing food for your families with a few new trials in the works and some tweaked farming practices as we scale back this season. Having a smaller growing footprint has allowed us to depend more on drip irrigation rather than overhead which has been really helpful with another dry spring and trying to conserve water. Every year brings its discoveries!

As a CSA member, you will receive a bi-weekly box of produce this season. 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 you enjoy eating with the seasons and maybe discovering some new favorite meals or snacks. Let us know if you come across great recipes. We would be happy to include them in upcoming newsletters so other members can enjoy them as well!



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** (12) and **Freya** (9) 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. Outside of the farm, Nick works for Land Stewardship Project as an organizer with a focus on working with beginning farmers. With our reduced scale and staffing changes this season, Abe and Freya are putting in some more time on the farm in addition to their animal chores. Abe is our ace mower which is a blessing this time of year when mowing never seems to end! Freya and Abe both help out with cleaning out greenhouse trays and this will be their inaugural season helping out with trellising tomatoes. They have both helped out with some transplanting and odd jobs. We're looking forward to spending more time with them during the work day.

Elijah is working on the farm through October. Elijah helped us out with some harvest last fall as well as helping us replace high tunnel plastic. He has proven to be a fantastic and upbeat farm sidekick and we're grateful he is spending time on the farm. He keeps busy with football practice and helps out at his grandpa's farm as well during the summer.

Sarah is working on the farm one day a week. Sarah grew up in the area and works part time on the farm, often with her son, Elijah. She enjoys gardening, hiking and many other activities that are outdoors. In the summer she dislikes being indoors so this is a great fit! Sarah also enjoys spending time with her children. Sarah has been our rock over the last several years and we are so glad to have her back!

We also have a great crew of work share members including **Christian, Courtnie, Amy, Cara, Lydia, Renee and Tammy** who will be helping us on CSA harvest and pack mornings. Our work share members are a real boost to the social life on the farm and we greatly appreciate the extra energy and delight they bring to the farm. We even had a little pinch hit from our sister-in-law Susie who was visiting from Montana. She helped us with our big packshed cleaning and sanitizing. Always great to have an extra hand to get our veggie packing area ship shape. And last but not least, Nick's mom **Jo Ann** still comes down once a week to help out, bring lunch and generally keep the house moving on CSA pack days. We are grateful she lives close enough to be part of our weekly farm routine.



Frequently Asked Questions

When does CSA pick-up begin?

- CSA pick-up begins on **Thursday, June 15th** for our Litchfield and Dassel members and **Thursday, June 22nd** for our St. Cloud members. CSA shares are picked up every other week.
- 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, spam, or promotions.

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. Newsletters will also be emailed using Mail Chimp. These may end up in spam or promotions depending on the way your email is configured.
- Please pay your remaining balance, if applicable, before CSA pick-up begins. If you need a more flexible payment arrangement, please contact us – we are happy to accommodate.

How do I pick up my CSA share?

- Choose one CSA box from the stack at your pick-up site. You can choose to unload your box at the pick-up site or bring the box home. Many members choose to unload their share into bags of their own so they do not need to remember to return the box.
- Check your name off of the share member pick-up list so we know you picked up your share.
- If you bring a box home, please return boxes the next time you pick up your share. Flatten the box (see picture in handbook for how-to) and keep in a clean location until then.

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

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

- Call or text Nick (320.269.1057) to let us know you will be late. If we can make alternate arrangements to connect you with your box, we will do so. ***PLEASE NOTE: If prior arrangements have NOT been made, share boxes left after the pick-up window will be donated to the food shelf or a family in need 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. Let us know who is picking up for you in case we need to call them with a reminder to pick up!
- Have us donate your share to the food shelf or a family in need.
- We can often accommodate having you pick up on an off week. Contact us in advance to make arrangements. We will do our best to accommodate!
- 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. 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 (Nick Cell: Use this number for contact on delivery days, call or text)
- 320.535.0569 (Joan Cell)

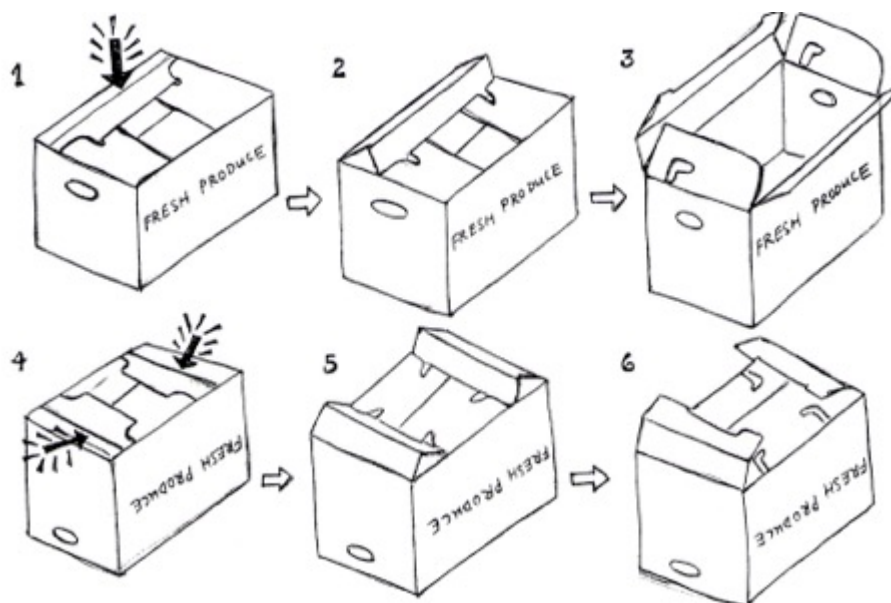
Outside of delivery days, the best way to contact us is by email since we can respond when it is convenient and we are often outside. If you call, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. You may also text us on our cell phones.

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 or spam 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.

Taking care of your CSA box

When breaking down your box to flatten it, fold along creases (see picture below) to prevent tearing. The better the CSA boxes are treated, the longer we can use them. Thank you in advance!



Additional Items for Purchase or Add-ons

- **Bulk Produce:** Many members would like 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 discounted price for CSA members.
- **Specialty Shares:** We will have specialty shares for purchase as they become available (Greens Share for Freezing, Tomato Canning Share). More info to come in newsletters.
- **Autumn Share:** Optional Autumn Shares, delivered one time in mid October are available in limited quantities. Autumn shares include carrots, potatoes, onions, winter squash, garlic, carrots, beets, and more! We have just a couple more shares available this year.
- **Grass Fed Beef:** 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. They have many other options as well. Pick-up in St. Cloud or in Litchfield will be arranged. Contact Tyler and Kate directly to sign up for a beef share by visiting their website (<https://www.earlyboots.com>) emailing them at earlyboots@gmail.com or calling 320-249-1841.
- **Lamb:** Our friends Mark and Kate raise lamb about 15 minutes north of us at Prime Avenue Farm. Reach out to them directly to purchase lamb and arrange pickup. You can purchase directly from their website (<https://primeavenuefarm.com/offerings-lamb>).
- **Dried Beans:** We will be offering certified organic dried navy and red kidney beans from Farm Girl Fresh here in Litchfield once again in the fall. Look for the opportunity to order dried beans during the last weeks of CSA deliveries.

CSA Pick-up Sites

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

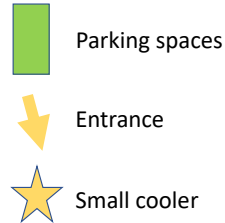
Phone: 320-693-7539

Share boxes in the back room of the Co-op. Please note, the Co-op now locks their back door after 5pm. If you arrive after 5pm, please use the front door of the Co-op.

Prairie Drifter Farm, 61369 223rd St, Litchfield, *Every other Thursday, 4:00-8:00pm*

Phone: 320-693-5502

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



Dassel Community Room, 460 Third Street, Dassel, *Every other Thursday, 4:00-6:00pm*

Share boxes on a table in the community room.

Good Earth Food Co-op, 2010 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud, *Every other Thursday, 4:00-7:00pm*

Phone: 320-253-9290

CSA pickup in the parking lot next to the Good Earth Food Co-op.



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

2023 Prairie Drifter Farm Share Member Calendar

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

Week 2

Week 3

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 4

Week 5

Week 6

Week 7

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 8

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

Week 12

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

Week 13

Week 14

Week 15

Week 16

PLEASE NOTE:

CSA Share pickups are on THURSDAYS

Litchfield/Dassel CSA pick-up dates are in **Green**
(every other week starting June 15)

St. Cloud CSA pick-up dates are in **Orange**
(every other week starting June 22)