

Community Supported Agriculture – Program Guidelines and FAQ

The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program at Grande Cheese provides Associates the chance to purchase a CSA share from a local CSA farm. Shares are comprised of certified organic produce and delivered on a weekly and bi-weekly basis for Associates to take home. The objective of the program is to encourage Associates and their families to eat healthier by having access to fresh, local, organic produce.

The program will begin in the spring with promotion and sign-up and the actual delivery season will start in early to mid-June and run for 20 weeks, until early to mid-October.

Grande will pay the total cost of the CSA share upfront to the farm. As a responsible CSA shareholder, Associate's will pay back the cost of the share through payroll deductions over 10 pay periods starting in June.

Associates that participate in the CSA program must complete an Affidavit stating that if they are no longer an active Grande Associate they will pay the rest of the CSA share on their final paycheck and will still remain responsible for their CSA share. That means Associates will need to continue picking up their share from the designated pick-up location until the season ends. If their share is currently being dropped off at a Grande facility, the Associate will have to make arrangements with the CSA farm to have their share dropped-off at one of their other designated pick-up locations.

If a Grande facility has 20 or more Associates sign-up to receive a CSA share, that facility may have the opportunity to become a drop-off location and Associates will be able to pick-up their CSA share right from their facility. If a facility has less than 20 Associates sign-up, those that choose to receive a CSA share will pick-up their share at one of the designated locations offered by the farm.

Associates may choose to split a CSA share with another co-worker, but one Associate must be the responsible CSA shareholder. The CSA shareholder will be the one who signs up to receive the CSA share and is set-up to payback the cost of the share through payroll deductions. You and the person you are splitting the share with will have to determine how you are splitting the cost. Grande will not be responsible for splitting the deductions between Associates.

If you are unable to pick-up your CSA share from your pick-up location it is your responsibility to designate someone else to pick up your share (i.e. co-worker, spouse, domestic partner, child, etc). If you know that you will not be able to pick-up your share, please contact the farm you have purchased your share from directly or Ali Radke (Ext. 1382) ahead of time to make arrangements.

You must transport your produce from the box the farm provides into a separate bag or other box in order to take home. The boxes that the produce is delivered in by the farm are not allowed to be taken home by Associates. Grande will provide re-usable totes for you to transport your fresh produce from the pick-up location to your home.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What all comes in my share? Do I get to choose what produce I want each week?
 - a. CSA farms grow a variety of vegetables and herbs, accented by some less common vegetables that maybe you have never tried before. The kinds of vegetables you receive in your box changes throughout the course of the season. The first boxes are a little smaller with many cool season greens, while late summer brings much more bounty and diversity. You will be notified of what produce is to be expected in your share each week. You are not allowed to choose which vegetables or produce you receive each week. Once you receive your CSA share you may be able trade items with another CSA members if you both agree to swap items.

Some examples of vegetables and produce you might receive are: beans, bok choy, cabbage, celery, chard, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, peas, peppers, pumpkin, rhubarb, spinach, summer squash, tomatoes and much more!

2. Will CSA shares be delivered to my facility?
 - a. Each facility needs at a minimum 20 Associates to sign-up to be considered a drop-off location. This will also depend on the farms workload for the CSA season. There is no guarantee that each facility will be able to be a drop-off location. We will notify you if that changes. You will be required to choose a pick-up location designated by the farm during your initial sign-up. If that drop-location is to change you will be notified.
3. What are the costs of a CSA Share?
 - a. CSA share costs vary from farm to farm – there is information provided on the posters at your facility listing the correct prices for the available shares. Larger shares can cost anywhere from \$400-\$800; medium shares cost between \$300 - \$500; and smaller shares cost between \$200-\$400. You can choose to receive shares every other week (EOW) for 10 weeks total – the cost of an EOW share is usually half of the cost of the regular shares.
4. Is the produce provided certified organic?
 - a. Yes, the produce that is offered through the CSA farms is certified organic. If an item is not certified organic, the farm will have that items listed as so on their website.

5. Is the produce washed before it is packaged?
 - a. Majority of the produce is rinsed off prior to it being packaged. Herbs are not washed due to the fact that they tend to breakdown quickly once they are washed. That being said, produce should be rinsed again and stored properly once you get it home.

6. What happens if I am unable to pick up my share on delivery day?
 - a. If you know in advance that you will not be able to pick up your CSA share from your pick-up location such as due to being on vacation, you have a couple options. You can designate someone else (i.e. family member, friend, etc.) to pick up your share that week. You can also choose to donate the share to a local food pantry. Otherwise contact the farm directly and make arrangements with them. They are normally accommodating and can keep your share an extra night.
 - b. If the CSA shares are being dropped off at a Grande facility, you have from 3pm – 5pm the day of the drop-off to pick up the share. If you are unable to pick it up during that window of time, we will allow you to pick up your share the following day, until 5pm. This is due to the fact that the produce, when not properly stored, begins to breakdown quickly and lose its integrity. It is important you pick it up as soon as possible to avoid wasting the produce. If you do not pick up your share or make arrangements to have someone else pick up your share, the shares will be forfeited and taken to a local food pantry.