

# 2024 CSA at Jillybeans Farmstand

Community Supported Agriculture Program

**EASY STEPS TO JOIN OUR CSA**

Registration starts February 1st and the deadline is March 16th, 2024. Program begins March 29, 2024

## What is a CSA?

CSA stands for community supported agriculture. The purpose of CSA programs is to help support the farmer in the beginning of the year purchase; seeds, fertilizer, making necessary repairs to equipment, and so on to help make the season happen. It is similar to the idea of buying your ski season pass in July for the coming season, whether or not it snows. In a CSA program you as a "Member" purchase a share of Jillybeans Farmstand's harvest of the coming season prior to the growing season, and then visit the stand when it is convenient for you as often as you wish from Good Friday (March 29, 2024) until we close on December 24th and purchase as much or as little as you need! This includes *ANYTHING* we sell at the stand, flowers, jam, dairy products, pies, meats, produce, strawberries and so much more.

## Why are CSAs Important? What are the risks of farming?

Upon becoming a "Member" at Jillybeans we all take on the risks of farming. Not only are there the risks of farming in this lovely New England area but there are many rewards too! Some risks we take on are the unpredictability of the weather, possible natural disasters to our crops, and just the chance the crops may not take and don't grow. Those are only some basic ones we as farmers deal with.

The benefits are much more rewarding than the risks. Upon harvesting, the crop yield depends on the season but we have multiple plantings of each crop to ensure we are able to pick the ones that flourish through the whole season and have them readily available on our stand. This is where a CSA Program is vital to farms. The early funds they receive is vital in helping purchase seeds, fertilizer, properly fix all of the equipment and jumpstart their season with any unforeseen bills that may come about.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to create a safe and fun way to have a CSA program in 2021. The pilot program we called "The Bean Crew" took off and has a huge following. We have decided this is the best way for all to continue providing a CSA program into 2023 again. This will help us, help you be able to come to the stand and get produce and groceries you may need for that time being. Or even some veggie plants to grow your own veggies! All and all, we just want our community happy, healthy and able to obtain the most fresh and healthiest food around. Life is stressful enough, just come grab what you need!

## What are some of our farming practices?

We believe GMO Free seeds are the only way to go. If a plant is to get a disease or not grow then that's the way it is meant to be. We do use manure and some fertilizer when absolutely necessary. Proper hand hygiene, produce washing, stand cleaning and COVID-19 safety practices are to be followed as guided by the health department and CDC.



### The kidz club continues!

This is for kids who want to learn money practices, "shop by themselves with mom and dad" and obtain a sense of responsibility. We are trying to promote healthy eating habits among our kiddos in the community. It is just as important to eat healthy and

fresh at a young age! Let's help them along in teaching healthy habits! Kids just need mom and dads approval.

## Jillybean's 2024 CSA Program "The Bean Crew"

### *For the grown ups!*

This convenient, and super flexible CSA Program entails you as the "Member" to purchase a share of Jillybeans Farmstand season as a whole. Easter through Halloween. When you purchase a mini, small, medium, or large share you will have a Jillybeans Card with the amount you've chosen on it. You will have the flexibility to use your share however you wish. You can choose to buy flowers, produce, fruit, condiments, ice cream, bakery products, or whatever else you may need or want :)

We will be able to save your Bean Crew Card to our system as well, so if you forget your card you can just give us your name/phone number and we will look it up and you can still purchase your items!

**The KIDZ Club Card \$25**

**Mini Bean Crewmember \$100**

**Small Bean Crewmember \$200**

**Medium Bean Crewmember \$300**

**Large Bean Crewmember \$500**

**All CSA Card options are reloadable at any point in the 2024 season for continued use throughout the year!**

# 2024 Jillybeans CSA Program Registration Form:

Please fill out and mail/drop off at the farmstand with payment in form of cash or check.

**\*\*Full Name (s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**(For KIDZ card club members only): First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*E-Mail** *(needed to save your bean crew club card into our system):* \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact (circle) Call Text

**\*\* Circle your share option(s):**

**The KIDZ Club Card \$25 (Ages 3-17yrs)**

**Mini Bean Crewmember \$100**

**Small Bean Crewmember \$200**

**Medium Bean Crewmember \$300**

**Large Bean Crewmember \$500**

**\*\*If you are a returning member: Do you still have your BEAN Card?**

**Yes or No or I'm a new Member**

**\*\*Membership cards can be picked up once we open on March 29, 2024\*\***

**By Joining Jillybeans Farmstand 2024 CSA Program I am supporting my local farmer in their growing season for 2024. I DO understand my CSA Membership and/or KIDZ Club Card is non-refundable**

**\*\*SignHere:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\* Date** \_\_\_\_\_

*Feel free to contact us with any questions 860-839-5887*

*My name is \_\_\_\_\_ I Understand I am going to use my Jillybeans KIDZ club card to purchase and try new fruits and vegetables, drink local fresh milk and juices, and eat healthy and stay active!*

*KIDZ Club Member Sign here:* \_\_\_\_\_

*KIDZ Club Member Parent/Guardian Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Jillybeans personnel use:**

**BEAN CARD #** \_\_\_\_\_

**KIDZ Club CARD #** \_\_\_\_\_

# VIP INFO!

Registration begins February 1st for THIS YEARS 2024 CSA program purchases can be made via...

1. Drop box at our self service at the stand front door or in the mailbox
2. www.jillybeansfarmstand.com and print out the form and mail it in
3. Link on our facebook page to print the form and mail it in or drop it off.

**Saturday March 16th, 2024 is the deadline to register.** This is a week prior to us opening for the year on Easter Weekend. YAY!!

The program begins at the beginning of April when we open up for Easter Weekend. Just when the weather begins to get nice and we start to have a variety of plants and flowers available for purchase too! **This years start date will be Friday March 29, 2024.**

## **Why is Jillybeans' CSA program so unique? Why become a part of "The Bean Crew"**

In a CSA program you as a "Member" purchase a share of Jillybeans Farmstand's harvest of the coming 2023 season prior to the growing season, and then visit the stand when it is convenient for you as often as you wish and purchase as much or as little as you need! This includes ANYTHING we sell at the stand. We wish for our entire community to benefit from our CSA this season and for many years to come. The KIDZ Club has been created to give kids a sense of healthy food options they can choose on their own or with the guidance of their family and to purchase it with their very own card! This gives them a sense of accomplishment, independence and willingness to try new things!

## **Why do we have registration dates if we are doing a card program instead of the traditional weekly box program?**

The registration dates are important because they are supporting us for the coming season. Supporting us during the season is one thing when the stand is open, showing support prior to us opening is the whole purpose of the CSA which is why most farmers have strict CSA deadlines. These deadlines also give us time to get all of the paperwork in order and allow us time to order all of the yearly unique Bean Crew Club Cards and get them in time for the season to start. There is a lot going on behind the scenes all of the time, especially during the Late Winter and Early Spring months besides getting ready for the CSA season in preparation for the greenhouse season and growing season in fields.

**16.1% of adults meet the daily fruit intake in Connecticut, and 10.0% met vegetable recommendations (CDC.gov). This is astonishing! We are all so lucky to live in an area with access to fresh local produce we need to do better! Let's band together this 2023 for a healthier, happier and more positive year! Purchase a CSA share and join in!!!!!!!**

