

Wholesome Harvest Farm

Choice Share Info

Wholesome Harvest choice shares are designed to give added flexibility to our members while still maintaining the many mutual benefits that community supported agriculture offers to both farmer and member alike. Each week during a growing season you will be able to choose from what the farm has available on that particular week. As a choice share member you are purchasing a set amount of weekly CSA **points**. The **small choice share has 12 available points per week** while the **large choice share has 20 points available each week**. These points are then used in our online CSA store in exchange for your choice of the items that are available that week from our farm. You control the items you receive as well as the quantity of each individual item (**an “item” equals a point value**). The only limitation to your choice is that you may not choose more than a quantity of 3 for one individual item (or some limits described below). In addition to the choice of the projected 12-20 items each week, we will also make available bumper crop options for you to choose from. For example, in one week red cabbage was given to our standard members as well as our choice share members. After all members received their amount of cabbage, there were 50 heads left in the field. Those heads of cabbage would be offered as a first come, first serve option to you as a choice share member. The choice share stays true to the CSA model in that it will still be seasonal (you still can't get melons in October), it will still be a risk sharing as well as bounty sharing relationship, and still benefits the farm and consumer with a steady production and purchasing schedule.

How does the Choice Share work?

Once you have signed up for the choice share you will be given access to your own private Wholesome Harvest member portal. Your account will be filled with the designated number of **points** that correspond with which size share you purchased (small choice share: 12 or large choice share: 20). The Friday before the CSA season is about to begin (usually early June) and every Friday thereafter, you will be prompted to log in and choose the items you would like in your box for that week. Your choices will have to be made by Sunday at noon. Once you have made your selections and used your points for that week, we will take your order and harvest the specific vegetables you chose for that week. When it comes time to pick up your share at your pick up site, you will simply take the box with your name labeled on it and bring it back empty the following week.

How does the point system work?

To best understand what you can choose to place in your box, here are a few examples of how points are allotted to items followed by a full page example on the following page. First off, nearly all items are always worth one point. For example, one head of lettuce will always be one point as will most all the other head crops such as cabbage, broccoli, so on and so forth (**1 Head of Cabbage = 1 Point**). Weighted crops that are almost always consistent like carrots and potatoes will usually have a consistent weight worth one point like 1 lb of carrots or 2 lbs of potatoes (**2 lbs of Potatoes = 1 point**). Item crops like winter squash and large onions will usually always maintain a 1 point status. A few crops could shift their weight per point as the season progresses. For example, the first week of cucumber harvest usually yields very low so 1 Cucumber might equal 1 point. As the season progresses though, and yields go up, 3 cucumbers could yield 1 point. Other crops that could change points with the ebbs and flows of the season are beans, tomatoes, and peppers to name a few. At times we may limit the choice of a crop to only one or two points of that item. For example, we simply do not have the means to bring every member three 10lb watermelons. Another time for limiting would be if one particular crop just simply had awful yields or some disease or pest problem and production is very limited. In order to ensure everybody has a chance at that crop, limits may need to be in place. Limits will be placed on very few things ever other than a few cases a year or simple logistics like the sheer size and weight of watermelon.

Example

Here is an example of how you could use a small choice (12 points to use) share in week 12 of the CSA season. Remember, your choices change as the season does.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity = 1 Point</u>	<u>Member Choices</u>	<u>Total Quantity in Box</u>
Carrots, orange	1 pound	1	1 pound of carrots
Slicing Tomatoes	2 pounds (2-3 tomatoes)	2	4 pounds of tomatoes
Cherry Tomatoes	1 pint		
Green Bell Pepper	1 large	2	2 green bell peppers
Yellow Bell Pepper	1 large		
Red Onion	2 small onions		
White Onion	1 large (or 2 small)	1	1 white onion
Yellow Onion	1 large (or 2 small)		
Cipollini Onions	3 large (or 4 small)		
Yellow Watermelon	1 melon	1	1 yellow melon
Red Watermelon	1 melon		
Eggplant, asian	1 eggplant		
Eggplant, globe	1 eggplant		
Cabbage, green	1 head of cabbage	1	1 head of cabbage
Green Beans	1 pound	1	1 pound of green beans
Yellow Beans	$\frac{3}{4}$ pound		
Lacinato Kale	1 bunch (5-6 leaves)		
Lettuce Mix	5 oz. bag		
Red Potato	2 pounds	3	6 pounds of red potatoes
Gold Potato	2 pounds		
<u>Total Points</u>		12 points used	

**This is strictly an example compiled from past seasons and does not mean that the current season's week 12 will look like this.