**2017 CSA New Member Application**

Firebird Farm (UDC) would like to thank you for your interest in our CSA program, and your desire to join us for the 2017 growing season and the farm’s 22nd year! By becoming a member, you will not only be receiving fresh organic vegetables, you will be supporting the mission of the Center for Urban Agriculture & Gardening Education:

*To expand academic and public knowledge of sustainable farming techniques that improve food and water security, health and wellness by providing research and education on urban and peri-urban agroecology and gardening techniques to residents and organizations in Washington, DC, and beyond*.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a mutual commitment between a farm and a community of supporters that provides a direct link between the production and consumption of food. Supporters cover an integral part of a farm's yearly operating budget by purchasing a share of the seasonal harvest before it is grown. CSA members make a commitment to support the farm throughout the season. Members’ payment helps cover costs for seeds, water, equipment maintenance, labor, etc. In return, the farm commits to providing a consistent supply of high quality vegetables each week throughout the growing season. At Firebird Farm, our goal is to grow and deliver a combination of vegetables and herbs valued at $30 each week, which is an additional 15% over what you pay.

In addition, we also recognize that smaller families may not have the same needs as large families or people sharing produce. Our full-shares will feed up to 3 people on average per week, or 2 people who love veggies. We are now offering half-shares, which will feed up to 2 people on average per week or a single person who loves veggies.

**In 2017 we will offer 3 seasonal shares: Spring, Summer, and Fall.**

*All Pick-ups are in front of Building 44 in the breezeway on Thursday afternoons*

For those of you who aren’t so crazy about greens and root crops, but can’t live without summer squash and tomatoes (or vice-versa), we have structured our membership options to allow you to choose your produce seasonally. In 2017, we will offer Spring, Summer, and Fall shares. Though not exhaustive, what follows is a list of crops typically available by season:

**SPRING** Head Lettuce, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Kale, Collards, Beets, Turnips, Radishes

**SUMMER** Tomatoes, Sweet Peppers, Hot Peppers, Cucumbers, Zucchini, Summer Squash, Carrots, Potatoes, Beets, Swiss Chard, Eggplant

**FALL** Arugula, Kale, Collards, Swiss Chard, Beets, Turnips, Radishes, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Winter
Squash, Asian Greens, Sweet Potatoes

**Details about seasonal shares and costs:**

Limited participation is available due to growing space and we can only support 10 full shares and 15 half shares each season. To guarantee your season’s availability, we encourage you to sign up by **May 18th**, even if you will not begin receiving weekly deliveries until Summer or Fall. You may sign up later in the season, but may be waitlisted.

As an incentive, you can receive a discount for signing up for all three seasons and paying a lump sum to UDC. See below for more information on costs:

* Full Year share (lump sum) at **$525(full)/$262(half)** for all twenty-two weeks (May 25-Nov 16) ***Best Deal!!***
	+ **PAYMENT DUE MAY 18**
* Full Year share (payment plan) at **$550(full)/$275(half)** for all twenty-two weeks (May 25-Nov 16)
	+ **PAYMENT DUE MAY 18**
* Spring shares at **$125(full)/$62(half)** for five weeks (May 25-June 22).
	+ **PAYMENT DUE MAY 18**
* Summer shares at $**225(full)/$112(half)** for nine weeks (July 13-Sep 7)
	+ **PAYMENT DUE JULY 6**
* Fall shares at **$200(full)/$100(half)** for eight weeks (Sep 28-Nov 16)
	+ **PAYMENT DUE SEP 21**

**Please read and sign the following agreement for participation in the CSA:**

**2017 UDC-­‐CAUSES CSA Member Agreement**

Farm Contact Information:

Firebird Research Farm

12001 Old Baltimore Pike

Beltsville, MD 20705

CAUSES@udc.edu

**I. Introduction**

This agreement outlines our shared commitment to a strategy to improve the health and well-being of the university’s faculty and staff members through a sustainable food production and local foods initiative modeled after the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between the farm and the customer where, rather than simply purchasing food, our customers become “members” of this CSA farm who receive a portion of the farm’s harvest. The CAUSES CSA offers an opportunity for UDC employees to purchase a regular delivery of fresh produce throughout the 2017 growing season.

This year, our shares are limited to 10 full share participants and 10 half share participants. To ensure a spot in all three seasons, please either sign up for the lump sum option or check multiple season boxes in the membership cost section.

**II. Pick-Up Information**

Our CSA season extends from approximately May 25, 2017 to November 16, 2017. Members are responsible for coming to the pick‐up site each week to pick up their share of freshly harvested produce.

The size of one full share of produce will generally be two grocery bags of produce, with a slightly larger delivery expected during peak season and slightly smaller delivery during the early and late part of the growing seasons. The full share portion is ideal to feed 2-3 people for a week. The size of one half share of produce will be 1 grocery bag full, ideal to feed 1-2 people for a week.

The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES), embodying the landgrant tradition of UDC, will identify specific produce that will be grown sustainably for the exclusive use of members of the CAUSES CSA. Delivery dates will be weekly to the Van Ness campus of the University. Each CSA member is responsible for picking up their share each week from the pick‐up site.

**Pick up Site Location:** Breezeway in front of building 44 on the Van Ness side of the campus **Pick up Time:** Thursdays between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM

You are responsible for observing our pick up site rules, which are as follows:

1. Pick up your share within the timeframe stated. Although we deliver high-quality produce to the site, it will decline quickly if you do not pick up in time;
2. You will be provided with two reusable bags for the CSA pickup. Please bring these or another bag to pick up your produce. We wish to reduce the use of plastic bags (available on-site if you did not bring).
3. You will be required to weigh out your own share of vegetables using the on-site scale and following the instructions for your share each week (which will be shared ahead of time through email and on-site with a detailed list). We will allow limited trades of one vegetable type for another if there is excess. Please be honest in your collection of vegetables.

If you cannot pick-up your share, you must arrange for someone else to pick it up for you. You are responsible for explaining the pick-up location and procedures to your substitute. Shares that are not retrieved within the pick-up time will be donated to a DC food pantry. There is limited opportunity for you to arrange an alternate pickup time. Please discuss with your CSA contact.

**III. Membership Cost**

*Please choose your payment plan and share size:*

* Full Share: I choose a one year (All three seasons) CSA membership at $525 ($25 discount) to be paid as a lump sum (Due May 18)
* Half Share: I choose a one year (All three seasons) CSA membership at $262 ($13 discount) to be paid as a lump sum (Due May 18)
* Full Share: I choose a one year (All three seasons) CSA membership at $550 to be paid in installments ($125 due May 18; $225 due July 6; $200 due September 21)
* Half Share; I choose a one year (All three seasons) CSA membership at $275 to be paid in installments ($62 due May 18; $112 due July 6; $100 due September 21)
* Full Share: I choose the SPRING CSA membership at $125 (Due May 18)
* Half Share: I choose the SPRING CSA membership at $62 (Due May 18)
* Full Share: I choose the SUMMER CSA membership at $225 (Due July 6)
* Half Share: I choose the SUMMER CSA membership at $112 (Due July 6)
* Full Share: I choose the FALL CSA membership at $200 (Due September 21)
* Half Share: I choose the FALL CSA membership at $100 (Due September 21)

**IV. Payment Information**

In order to confirm your membership, you must pay for your membership fee at least one week before the beginning of the season. Please sign the agreement form and enclose a check for the total amount due. If you sign up for one season and decide to continue in a new season at a later date, know that membership is limited to 10 full shares and 15 half shares for each season. You may be put on a wait list if no space is available.

Please make your check payable to **CAUSES CSA Membership**. By submitting the signed agreement form you are agreeing to pay the membership fee for the share you indicated above. Payments are non‐refundable.

Completed applications along with a check should be returned to **Ms. Williett Hunt** in **Building 44, Room 120**. For more information about the CSA, contact Matt Gardine with the Center for Urban Agriculture & Gardening Education matthew.gardine@udc.edu. Not in CAUSES but want to know more about the program which we hope to open to the public in the future? Contact causes@udc.edu.

**V. Additional Information**

We promise to do our best to provide you with a bountiful share each week. The quantity of produce however, may vary from week‐to‐week due to extreme weather, insects, or other production factors despite our best efforts. By joining our CSA, you are agreeing to share the risk of crop failure with us and other members. In the unlikely event of a crop failure, our procedure is as follows:

* If only a small portion of crops fail, we compensate for the failed crops by filling your share with other crops grown on the farm that are ready for harvest at that time. If a large portion of crops fail, we may not be able to deliver the average size share during some weeks.
* In addition to growing fresh produce for our CSA members, our farm donates to local food banks and grows food for a small number of farmers markets, and restaurants. We balance priority of the CSA with our other markets. This allows us to select a consistently full and diverse share to our customers while avoiding over‐delivering any one product.
* We take the safety of your food seriously, however, for your added protection, **wash all produce before eating**. Size of the delivery will vary and will depend on weather conditions and other related variables that make it impossible to determine various crop yields in a reliable manner.

This Agreement is made in and shall be governed by the laws of the District of Columbia.

**VI. Communication**

We will communicate with you by email. When you sign up, you will be added to our distribution list. Please read your email from us. We depend on being able to communicate important information such as necessary changes to your distribution schedule. Every week, we will email an update giving you information about the crops available that week, recipe ideas, or other farm related news.

**VII. Signature**

By signing below, I agree to purchase the membership share as indicated in Section V. I understand that, although unlikely, the University farm may change parts of this agreement related to production and distribution from time to time. I understand that they will contact me via email in advance of any changes to this agreement.

On this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of May 2017, the University of the District of Columbia College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES), of the University of the District of Columbia located at 4200 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008, and the undersigned employee of the University of the District of Columbia hereby agree:

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Member Name (please print) Date

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Member Signature

CAUSES Representative:

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Representative Name (please print) Date

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Signature