



## 2024 SNAP CSA Member Agreement

Thank you for your interest in joining Highwater's 2024 CSA program, we are excited you are here. This contract outlines the terms of our CSA membership and answers common questions. It is our hope that by setting clear expectations, you can determine if a CSA membership is a good fit for you and your lifestyle.

### Is CSA right for me?

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a partnership between a farm and a community of supporters. Traditionally, members purchase their share of the farm's harvest at the beginning of the season to help the farm with the up-front costs of seeds, equipment, supplies and labor. In return, members enjoy a weekly share of the farm's harvest from June to October and build a relationship with their farmers and the land. This year we expect to have 120 CSA members in total, spread across 3 pick-up locations. As a SNAP/EBT member, you will make weekly payments for your share.

Participation in Highwater's CSA has a number of benefits, including:

- Receiving a weekly share of high quality, fresh vegetables that have not traveled miles to the grocery store
- Contributing to sustainable agricultural practices
- Cooking with new vegetables and learning new recipes
- Supporting a job-training program for local teens

In 2024 Highwater Farm's CSA will run for 16-18 weeks from June to October. There are two on-farm pickup options that you can choose from when paying with SNAP:  
Thursdays 4:30-6pm or Saturdays 8-10am

Location:

Highwater Farm

7001 County Road 346

Silt, CO 81652

(See website for more detailed directions)

## **Our Practices and Produce**

### *Practices*

At Highwater Farm, we are building resiliency into our systems by diversifying production, rotating crops, cover cropping, integrating animals for fertility/pest control, and using water conservation techniques that helps us to restore the health of the soils and surrounding ecosystem. The farm uses a small tractor to aid in bed creation, but the majority of our work is carried out by hand. We are not certified organic, as this is a costly and complicated process for a farm our scale. However, we commit to farming with organic standards and beyond, refraining from the use of pesticides or chemicals.

### *Produce*

We grow over 40 different crops and 120 varieties of those crops on 3 acres. Growing a wide variety of crops helps us achieve our nutritional and ecological goals. Produce availability is different each season based on farming and weather conditions. An example of some available produce is as follows:

Spring/Early Summer: Lettuce, Spinach, Radish, Kale, Beets, Carrots, Snap Peas, Cabbage

Summer: Tomatoes, Melons, Peppers, Tomatillos, Flowers, Squash, Cucumbers

Fall: Potatoes, Pumpkins, Winter Squash, Onions, Garlic, Herbs, Greens

You may not be familiar with some of the vegetables you receive. However, we will provide weekly recipes and encourage you to ask/share ideas with other CSA members/staff when you attend pickup.

Please note that we plan our crops diligently to provide you with variety and balance each week; however, unpredictable farming and weather conditions may sometimes impact our ability to deliver the variety we intended. **As a member of Highwater's CSA, we ask that you understand these limitations and risks.**

## **What to Expect in a Share**

On-farm CSA members get to fill their own designated Highwater tote bag from a selection of in-season produce. CSA members will receive this tote bag at orientation or at the first pick-up. Our model is "take what you need" and is not volume-based. We ask that members pick up what their household can use on a weekly basis. We manage our shares to provide the quantity and diversity of produce to meet the weekly needs, on average, of *one* household. Produce available varies by season, but includes 8-10 different vegetables per week and includes a variety of U-Pick crops from the field.

### *U-Pick Program*

We want our farm members to be able to engage directly with the land and their produce. In addition to filling a bag of pre-harvested produce, members are invited to participate in U-Pick by harvesting specific crops themselves. Some of our U-Pick crops include: snap peas, green beans, cut flowers, cherry tomatoes, tomatillos, and more! Our U-Pick crops are available to all CSA members during on-farm CSA pickups. Because U-Pick crops serve all of our members, we ask that harvest limits are observed in the field. Harvest limits will be posted and updated weekly in the distribution area.

## **Communication**

A mandatory CSA orientation will take place on the farm to familiarize members with the farm, the logistics of pickup, and to meet other members/staff. Deposits can be made at orientation or beforehand.

The majority of communication during the CSA season will occur through our newsletter, which is sent out weekly and includes what to expect in the week's share, updates from the field, instructions on u-pick crops and any upcoming events on the farm.

We also recommend that you follow us on instagram @highwater\_farm or on facebook @highwaterfarmco to stay in touch with what's happening on the farm.

### **Payment**

The economic value of the vegetables you receive each week may vary based on what is coming out of the field; however, SNAP/EBT payments are broken down into equal weekly amounts. In this way, we encourage you to see your weekly SNAP/EBT payments as paying into the larger sum of the membership.

SNAP-eligible CSA members will pay for half of their share using EBT funds every week. The remaining half will be matched by Double Up Food Bucks (DUFEB), a free program that matches SNAP benefits dollar for dollar for Colorado-grown fruits and vegetables. You must pay for your share at every pick-up and SNAP benefits can not be paid in advance or prior to a pick-up. If you have insufficient funds on your EBT card to make a payment, you still need to pay for your share when you pick it up with cash/card. The cost of each share is \$20 when paying with EBT/SNAP or \$40 when paying out-of-pocket.

#### *Total cost of CSA with SNAP*

\$20 each week paid with SNAP x 16-18 weeks

Paid across 16-18 week season: \$320-\$360 SNAP benefits

#### *Refundable Deposit*

A deposit of \$40 is required with this signed agreement. You may make your deposit with cash. Your deposit will be refunded to you at the last pick-up if all conditions are met as described in the attendance policy (below). Deposits can be made at orientation or beforehand.

### **Attendance Policy**

#### *Missed Pickups*

It is your responsibility to pick up your share and provide payment every week at the time of the scheduled pickup. If you know that you will be absent, you have two options:

1. Arrange for someone else to pick up and pay for your share using cash/card. Please notify us beforehand via the digital form (this will be discussed in detail at orientation). Note: if your replacement is paying with cash/card, the full price of the weekly share (\$40) will apply, only SNAP recipients are eligible for the half-price pickup (\$20). This will not count against you if someone else can pay and pick up the share.
2. In the event that you nor a friend can pick up your share, it will count as a missed pick-up.

Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate you if you forget or are late to pick-up. The farm operates within specific hours and any unclaimed shares will be routed elsewhere.

**You may have up to 3 missed pickups during the 16-18 week CSA season.** If you miss more than a total of 3 pick-ups, you will lose your entire deposit and we may cancel your membership.

By signing below, you are confirming that you have read and understand the entire agreement and that you accept the conditions of your CSA membership. Please confirm with a check mark:

- I agree to attend a mandatory CSA orientation
- I understand that the farmers at Highwater are buying seed, planting, harvesting, and planning based on my promise to commit to the 2024 CSA program.
- I will remain in the program for the entire CSA season (16-18 weeks) and agree to pay for my share using card or cash if SNAP/EBT funds aren't available.
- I understand it is my responsibility to either pick up my share or arrange for someone else to pick up my share.
- I agree to provide a refundable deposit and understand that if I miss more than 3 pick-ups, Highwater Farm will use my security deposit to cover the cost of my share that week and will suspend my membership until further discussion.

**If unforeseen circumstances arise that create difficulty for you to uphold this contract, please contact us immediately.**

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Thank you to New Roots IRC and their existing SNAP program for helping guide this agreement**