2015 CSA Season Review

2015: Season 6. Our 20-week season ran from mid-June, when we first had enough different vegetables plus berries to make up a share with good variety & quantity, through the end of October, when apples, root vegetables, winter squash, autumn greens & more carried us through. Our CSA program continues to grow; again this year we saw an increase in the numbers of both full & half shares over the previous year. Some full shares were families splitting a share across 2 generations, or groups of friends or neighbors "sharing-a-share" -- 2 great ideas that are catching on! Most of our half shares are held by 1 or 2 people; a few folks used the CSA half share to meet most of their weekly produce needs, then supplemented with pick-your-own or farmers' market shopping.

This year we had 2 "satellite" CSA drop-offs. The University of Hartford came back for a second year; we delivered several weekly shares for UofH faculty & staff members. LEGO Systems of Enfield also arranged for weekly CSA delivery for just over 20 half shares to their employees. At both locations, we had great help from the staff coordinating the pick-up at their end. "Satellite" CSA is definitely worth our while, to make it convenient for more folks to have access to our CSA program. We're repeating both of these arrangements in 2016, and we're open to pursuing other "collective" partnerships with workplaces, organizations, faith communities, etc.. Ask us about this if you have a group that's interested & a shared pick-up location to offer!

As usual, each week's share included several varieties of seasonal vegetables, fruit, & occasionally herbs. Each week we try to offer a "menu-convenient" mix of items: vegetables that go well together in recipes or complement each other in a meal. A weekly e-mail describes the share contents, to allow for menu planning & grocery shopping; we add hints on cooking & storage, & sometimes recipes -- which often come from our CSA members!

The weekly shares reflect whatever is abundant in a given season; we're also learning that some veggies we thought folks might need a bit of encouragement to try actually have a strong fan base (kohlrabi, beets & Brussels sprouts!).

We also offered "a la carte" add-ons to our CSA shares -- and this has become a very popular option. When any of our veggies or fruit were plentiful, *and* folks might want more than was included a given week (e.g., strawberries, plums, broccoli, squashes), they could order extra amounts and pay for / pick these up with their weekly share.

For a full list of each week's share offerings, and photos from our 2015 season, click the links on our CSA Program page:

2015 CSA Weekly Share Listing  2015 CSA Photos
For some photos from our 2015 season, click here: