



Windsor Community Supported Agriculture (WECSA)

The Community Supported Agriculture movement has arrived in Windsor-Essex!

A **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** group is a partnership of mutual commitment between a farm and a community of supporters that provides a direct link between the production and consumption of food. Supporters cover the farm-operating budget by purchasing such things as seed, necessary supplies, etc. in lieu of their share of the season's harvest. CSA members make a commitment to support the CSA farming 'crew' throughout the season. The farmers and the growers assume the costs, risks and bounty of growing food along with the farmer or owners of the land.

Eventually **memberships** are sold which help pay for seeds, water, equipment maintenance and upgrades, and if the farm gets big enough, even labour, etc. In return, the farm provides, to the best of its ability, a healthy supply of seasonal fresh produce throughout the growing season.

Becoming a **Grower** (Limit 25 for Test Year 2009) creates a responsible relationship between people and the food they eat, the land on which it is grown and those who grow it together in community.

This mutually supportive relationship between local farmers, growers and community members helps create an economically stable farm operation in which members are assured the highest quality produce, often at below retail prices. In return, **Farmers** and **Growers** are guaranteed a reliable market for a diverse selection of crops.

In the **PREPARATION YEAR (FALL 2008) and TEST YEAR (2009)** there will be a limited number of chosen members designated as **Growers** (Total=25). These **Growers** and the **Farmer** (1) will prepare the land site for **2009 TEST YEAR**, plant, maintain, learn and grow together, manage and record all data for their assigned plot (approx. 10 x 30 FT). **Growers** will be assigned a specific crop or crops if there are companion vegetables on their plot. All **Growers** will work in conjunction and under the direction of the **Land Owner/Farmer** and the **Project Manager** (Steve Green).

Necessary Considerations:

Only dedicated, *reasonably* physically fit, willing able body persons should make the commitment to be a **Grower**. You will be required to work hard and share in the rewards of harvest. It can be hot/cold, wet/dry, etc.

Those interested will need to provide a police clearance to **Project Manager** (Steve Green). A photo will be taken for the purposes of the **Farm Owners** assuring only **WECSA** members have access to the land site/farm.

Privacy for the **Farm Owners** is of the ***utmost*** importance. **Growers** will be expected to follow a strict code of conduct and demonstrate great respect for the **Land Owners** and for the land.

Growers should value the *Local Food Movement* and *Organic-Chemical Free Produce*.

Growers need to be prepared to pay for the seeds and 2009 TEST YEAR costs. This will be announced at the first few meetings. We are approximating costs at around \$150.00/Grower (Couples only pay once).

Growers will benefit from all of the produce produced on the farm at no cost to them. Growers must demonstrate a strong desire to learn, communicate, cooperate and build trust and friendship with one another.

Lone Rangers need not apply!

Your commitment will last from Late Summer/Fall 2008 until completion of harvest 2009.

You can expect to be involved at a minimum of 4 days a month, more or less when needed. Most work will be on weekends as many of us work.

You need to be able to get to the farm yourself. It is located 10 KM South of Windsor just off the Chrysler Greenway Trail on the 13th Concession. Those who must/have to ride by vehicle will have a place to park. Cycling is strongly encouraged whenever possible (approx. 1/2 hour from North Talbot. Take the Walkerville 8 and get off at Walker & N. Talbot, head East on N. Talbot and get on the Chrysler Greenway!)

IF YOU ARE STILL INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED AS A POTENTIAL GROWER FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING STEPS

1. Email Steve Green at stevegreen@ymail.com or wecsa@ymail.com with your name, address, and phone #, email address and tell him why you want to be a part of the First TEST YEAR (starts this year as we prepare the land),

2. Get a criminal reference check Form for Volunteers at the nearest Police Station. Needs to be submitted to Steve Green prior to visiting the farm.
3. Attend meetings regularly (minimum once a month).
4. You will be required to sign a 'covenant promise' regarding your commitment & an environmental code of conduct prior to visiting the farm.

IF YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF THIS MOVEMENT BUT CANNOT COMMIT TO A 'GROWER', BUT STILL WANT TO VOLUNTEER!

1. Email Steve Green at stevegreen@ymail.com or wecsa@ymail.com with your name, address, and phone #, email address and tell him why you want to be a part of the First TEST YEAR (starts this year as we prepare the land).
2. Explain what you are willing/can to commit to.
3. Volunteers will be offered vegetables from the CSA when available.

NOTE: Criminal reference check still needed for occasional volunteers.

IF YOU ARE A COMMERCIAL OPERATION or RESTAURANT OWNER

1. Please contact Steve Green at stevegreen@ymail.com or wecsa@ymail.com and let us know what type of produce you may be interested. If we do have excess past community members, you may be eligible to receive produce organically grown and locally cared for at a reasonable cost.
2. Please submit why receiving produce from the CSA would be a good idea for your operation.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, NOT-FOR-PROFIT, OR FAITH GROUP

1. Please inform us of what need you may have, i.e. Free Supper for the Community, Food Bank, Shelter.
2. Email Steve Green at stevegreen@ymail.com or wecsa@ymail.com with contact information.

Any other questions just email stevegreen@ymail.com or wecsa@ymail.com!
Please feel free to copy this email and share it with interested parties!