

Herbal Howlett CSA Member Agreement

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Member Agreement for 2018

Farm Contact Information:

Herbal Howlett
224645 Otterville Rd
Otterville, Ontario N0J 1R0
1 (833) Howlett 1 (833) 469-5388
herbal@howlett.ca

Member Contact Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, Province: _____
Postal Code: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

We, the farm, wish to provide you with fresh, local, seasonal food and you, the member, wish to receive a portion of our harvest. This agreement outlines our shared commitments to that relationship.

Section 1. Introducing Our CSA Farm

A. Becoming a Part of Our Farm

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a relationship between our farm and you as our customer. Rather than simply purchasing food, our customers become “members” of this CSA farm who receive a portion of the farm’s harvest.

Our Summer CSA runs for 20 weeks, starting the first weekend in May.

Our Flower CSA add-on runs in the summer only for 20 weeks starting first weekend in May.

Our Autumn CSA runs for 10 weeks, starting the first weekend in October.

Our Winter CSA runs for 15 weeks, starting the second weekend in January.

Our Egg CSA add-on runs year round.

Our Poultry and Rabbit CSAs have limited runs each year, with pickups being for fresh or frozen product – see details of the Poultry and Rabbit CSAs below.

Members are responsible for showing up at the designated pick-up site each week to pick up your share of freshly harvested produce, eggs or meat. The default pickup site is the farm. Alternate pickup sites may be available, possibly at additional cost – inquire when you sign up and select your preference (see below). You will generally receive a box (think of Staples.ca item #13715 file box) filled with produce for the Summer/Autumn/Winter CSA, a bouquet of cut flowers for the Flower CSA Add-on, a dozen eggs for our Egg CSA add-on, or an agreed number of carcasses for the Poultry and Rabbit CSA. Detailed information regarding pick-up is discussed below in Section 3. Variety and quantity may vary as described below in Section 2.

B. Our Growing Practices

The farm is neither Certified Organic nor Certified Naturally Grown, as the costs and compliance-required record keeping is too burdensome for our small farm. Meat, poultry and eggs come from animals that are not given antibiotics or growth hormones. Our produce is grown without using conventional pesticides, fertilizers made with synthetic ingredients or sewage sludge, bioengineering, or ionizing radiation. We do not produce enough compost or manure to satisfy all of our soil amendment needs, so we do purchase from outside sources, but we confirm that the outside amendments are unlikely to contain any of the "bad stuff." Unfortunately, while there are some who will express a guarantee, there are no certainties, only unpleasant legal warranty recourses. We still rely on the honesty and integrity of the people we buy from more than any warranties. For on-farm sources, we use rabbit manure, composted poultry manures and composted garden & kitchen scraps. For seed stock, we focus mostly on heirloom varieties and prefer organic sources, where available. Occasionally, we will try out some hybrid seed stock that promises better resistance to a pest or blight. And even more rarely, we might by accident, try a GMO seed – although, since GMO seed stock is usually guarded by patents and usage requires signed contracts, I suspect that we are unlikely to even **accidentally** use a GMO seed.

Weeds are controlled through obsessive cultivation, mulching, careful watering and targeted amendments. Pests are controlled with organic and permaculture remedies and via manual removals.

For more information about our production methods, please ask. We'd be happy to tell you more.

Our poultry are free range and therefore in part, grass-fed; the reality of poultry is that they receive more nutrient from bugs and worms than they do from grass, but they truly eat a LOT of grass. Free-range animals are allowed continuous access to the outdoors during their production cycle. All poultry are fed a grains-based diet. They're birds. Birds eat seeds. Grains are seeds. So poultry eat grains. While they may also eat other things (like grass, weeds and bugs), 60% or more of their diet will come from grains. Anyone who tries to tell you otherwise should be looked at suspiciously. We do not go out of our way to source only organic non-gmo grains; it would double or triple our costs, and I don't think the marketplace demands (or is ready to pay for) it just yet. 2017 was our first year under solely our management, and our experience in 2017 was 0% loss on poultry, using our 'old-school' methods.

Rabbits are fed pelleted Alfalfa and loose hay, some of which is harvested from our farm. The pelleted alfalfa also contains weeds, so I'm pretty sure that the Alfalfa hay fields were not sprayed with any herbicides or pesticides – it's just not generally cost-effective to spray hay fields. [Aside: despite apparent lack of sprays, the pelleted alfalfa is not certified organic either; like us, those hay farmers are likely reluctant to shell out big bucks for someone in a suit to come in and say "Oh, you need to spend more time in your office, recording data instead of wasting it out here in the field."] Our hope for 2018 is that we can finish our summer rabbits on grass, but to be honest, pastured rabbits are an extremely difficult venture – rabbits like to dig, and this exposes them to a very large predation risk... especially when they're small and fit easily through tiny dug holes. Our loss experience under our sole management in 2017 has been less than 3%.

C. The Products We Expect for 2018

The chart below outlines some of the products we hope to deliver and when you may see them in your share. This chart is based on our best estimate, but of course weather, pests, and other events will affect actual production.

Vegetables CSA		Poultry & Rabbit CSA
Months	Expected Crops	Expected Harvest
January to March 2019	Greens, Microgreens and select herbs, some overwintering roots and peas	About 20 rabbits are expected to be available, dressing at 2-5lbs at 14-16 weeks
April to May	Herbs and Greens like: mint, thyme, basil, arugula, lettuce, chard, kale, beet greens Roots like: radishes, baby beets, baby carrots, salad turnips Fruits & Vegetables like: peas, early beans, early tomatoes, early cucumbers	About 20 rabbits are expected to be available. Rabbits will dress out to be about 2-5 pounds each, fully dressed at about 14-16 weeks of age.
June to August	Herbs and Greens like: mint, rosemary, thyme, basil, arugula, (possibly lettuce), chard, kale, beet greens Roots like: radishes, beets, carrots, salad turnips, bunching onions Fruits & Vegetables like: peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, corn, canteloupe, melons, zucchini and other summer squashes	40 chickens, 20 young ducks and 20 rabbits are expected to be available. Chickens / young ducks are expected to be about 2-5 / 2-7 pounds each, fully dressed, at about 7-9 weeks of age. Rabbits will dress out at similar weights at about 14-16 weeks of age.
September to October	Herbs and Greens like: mint, rosemary, thyme, basil, arugula, lettuce, chard, kale Roots like: radishes, beets, carrots, onions, rutabagas/swedes/turnips Fruits & Vegetables like: peas, beans, tomatoes, corn, canteloupe, melons, pumpkins, winter squash, gourds	Up to six turkeys will be available fresh for Canadian Thanksgiving, weighing 15-25lbs each, dressed. 45 chickens, 20 ducks and 20 rabbits are expected to be available. Chickens are expected to be about 2-5 pounds each, fully dressed, at about 8-10 weeks of age. Ducks will be about 20 weeks old and will dress out between 9 and 16 pounds. Rabbits will dress out at 2-5 pounds each at about 14-16 weeks of age.
November December (under covers)	Herbs and Greens like: mint, rosemary, thyme, basil, arugula, lettuce, chard, kale Roots like: radishes, beets, carrots, onions, rutabagas/swedes/turnips Fruits & Vegetables like: peas, pumpkins, winter squash	Excess frozen rabbits, ducks, chickens and turkeys will be available

Section 2. Our Shared Commitments

A. Sharing in the Risk of Crop Failure

We promise to do our best to provide you with a bountiful share each week. The quantity of produce, eggs, meats and flowers, however, may vary from week-to-week, month-to-month and season-to-season 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 any product in some weeks.

B. Sharing in the Reward of Crop Surplus

In addition to our CSA, our farm sells to farmers markets and a local healthy-eats store as well as, occasionally, to restaurants, grocery stores and local schools, if production is high enough. Although production is not segregated, our CSA members receive priority. After filling our CSA shares with the week's harvest first, the remainder is sold to our other markets. When we have a bumper crop of something though, you will likely find a "bumper bin" at your pickup spot, from which you will be invited to take some extra of that (or those) item(s).

Section 3. Picking Up Shares

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You are responsible for picking up your share each week from the designated pickup site. Make your mark next to the drop site you would like to use from the list below.

CHECK YOUR SELECTION	City or Neighborhood	Name of Location, business, homeowner, or organization	Address	Day	Time
	Springford / Ostrander	Herbal Howlett (eggs and poultry available here)	224645 Otterville Rd Otterville, Ontario	Fridays	5:30pm-8:30pm
	Tillsonburg	Tillsonburg Farmer's Market (extra \$2/week)	41 Bridge Street West Tillsonburg, Ontario	Saturdays	8am-10am
	Milton (to be confirmed)	Milton Farmer's Market (extra \$5/week)	251 Main Street East Milton, Ontario	Saturdays	8am-10am
	Milton (to be confirmed)	Simply For Life (extra \$7/week)	150 Nippissing Road Milton, Ontario	TBD	TBD

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

1. Bring your own bag/box and leave the box at the site
2. Pick up your share within the timeframe stated. Although we deliver high-quality produce to the site, it will quickly decline in quality if not picked up in time.
3. Be respectful of our drop site hosts' property.
4. Follow additional rules posted at your drop site regarding parking/use of certain entrances/boxes.

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 and notifying us at least 48 hours before the pickup. If you wish to change your drop site, please first call us to make sure we can accommodate your wish; if the change can be accommodated, then any additional charges will be required at the first pickup following the change, and any unused charges can be refunded as credits towards other farm production. Shares that are not retrieved within the pick-up time will (without compensation or recourse) be donated to the drop site host, sold at the farmers market, gifted to the local food bank, fed to the animals or composted, as befitting conditions at the time.

For 2018 we are experimenting with a T-shirt identification system – rather than providing ID that must match this agreement (or substitute's ID as notified in advance), whoever wears the shirt with your CSA ID printed on it is entitled to pick up your share. The cost of a Herbal Howlett 2018 CSA Share T-shirt is just \$5. Please specify size when ordering.

We take the safety of your food seriously. Our picking, sorting, washing and packing containers, equipment and surfaces are sanitized frequently. The water we use comes from a deep well (i.e. not a pond or creek) and has been tested by local health authorities. However, for your added protection, please wash all produce before eating and put frozen products in the freezer as soon as possible. Note that at markets, any produce that has been on display (i.e. NOT your CSA shares) may have been handled by the public whose attention to food safety may be different from ours.

Section 4. Member Fees

By selling membership in advance of the growing season, CSA reduces the burden of up-front costs for the farmer. Your membership fees provide us with money to purchase seed and equipment before the season starts, and we appreciate your commitment. Place a check mark next to the share type you would like from the list below.

CHECK YOUR SELECTION	Share Type	Share Size	Price if fully paid 5 weeks before first pickup	Price if reserved 5 weeks before first pickup	Price if bought less than 5 weeks before first pickup
	Summer Greens, fruits and vegetables Starts 1 st weekend in May	Full Share	\$450	\$500 \$300 due 5 weeks prior, balance @ 1 st pickup	\$33/week prorated, payable in advance in full
	Summer Flowers Add-on Starts 1 st weekend in May	Add-on Share	\$175	\$200	\$15/week, as above
	Eggs (farm pickup only; 52 weeks/yr)	1 doz/wk	\$220/yr		\$5/doz
	Autumn Greens, & vegetables Starts 1 st weekend in October	Full Share	\$225	\$250 \$150 due 5 weeks prior, balance @ 1 st pickup	\$33/week prorated, payable in advance in full
	Winter Greens & Vegetables Starts 2 nd weekend in January	Full Share	\$340	\$375 \$225 due 5 weeks prior, balance @ 1 st pickup	\$33/week prorated, payable in advance in full
Total Amount Due: (add up your selections)					

To purchase any of the above, please use one of the following methods:

- ✓ Enclose a check for your total amount due, made payable to **Herbal Howlett** with this signed agreement form
- If paying in two installments, make the first cheque post-dated no later than 5 weeks prior to 1st pickup; 2nd payment may be made using any of these methods, payable on or before the 1st pickup date.
- ✓ Using Interac e-Transfer, send the amount due to herbal@howlett.ca
- ✓ Using PayPal, complete your transaction by using the link at herbal.howlett.ca
- ✓ In person, pay with cash
- ✓ In person pay with Visa, MasterCard, American Express or your debit card of choice on our Square device.

By submitting either a payment or an agreement form you are agreeing to pay the membership fee for the share you indicated above. The membership agreement form must follow the payment by mail, fax, scan to email or in-person delivery, such that the agreement is received before the 1st pickup is made. Copies of this agreement will be available for completion and signing at 1st pickup.

All payments are non-refundable after third pickup. Refunds are limited to 60% of payment.

Poultry and Rabbit CSA's are priced per carcass. Rabbits are \$27 each. Chickens are \$22 each. Ducks are \$35 each. Turkeys are \$125 each. These prices are per carcass, not per pound. Weights vary. Please indicate your size/quantity preferences. We'll do our best to divide up each harvest to satisfy the most people, but we cannot guarantee that you will receive your preferred size carcass. The price will not vary based on the size being different from your preference; prices are based on our input costs, not our output results. On the pickup day, please be early to increase your chances of getting more of the sizes you want. Poultry and Rabbit CSA orders are due and payable by March 31st. Pickup dates for rabbits and poultry will be emailed to Poultry/Rabbit CSA members only. Location is farm and all animals are processed at licensed facilities – no exceptions are allowed, as per federal/provincial legislations.

Section 5. Communicating with Us

The best way to communicate with us is via email or phone. Our email is herbal@howlett.ca and is monitored daily. Our phone is (833) Howlett or (833) 469-5388 and the best times to reach us are 6-8pm Monday through Thursday. We will do our best to respond as soon as possible, but please understand that we spend most of our time in the field growing your food and not at our desk. Please contact us with any news of the following: changes to your postal or email address, changes to your drop-site location, problems with your drop-site (email is best for any of these), or dissatisfaction with your share (please phone, as this is urgent and requires our immediate attention).

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 or to our farm events. Every week, we hope to email an update, giving you information about the crops available that week, recipe ideas, or other farm related news. Pictures, videos and updates will also be posted via Twitter / Instagram @HerbalHowlett, and on our facebook page facebook.com/HerbalHowlett. Please follow and like us on these social media, and share your pictures and recipes.

By signing below, I agree to purchase the membership share indicated in Section 4. I understand that, although unlikely, the 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.

Name (please print): _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____