

October 8, 2012

Hi Everyone,

Another year is winding down, and once again we're reflecting on the highs, lows, and everything in between. Overall 2012 was an uneventful but very satisfying season. Blueberries, beans, and zucchini were among the year's winners; eggplant was probably the loser. More fruit trees and other perennials were planted. The biggest excitement involved chickens and their predators, but I think as we gain more experience on that front, it, too, will become a less dramatic but more reliable feature of the farm.

### **Contract Renewal with Nassau County**

Many members have asked about the status of our lease with Nassau County, which expires next summer. So far I've received verbal confirmation that it will be renewed; I expect to have a signed contract by the end of the month. Meanwhile, we always begin share renewals by mid-October, and we prefer to stick to the schedule. We won't, however, start spending 2013 share money until January. In the unlikely event that the renewal does not go through, full refunds can be issued to everyone as late as January 1. For those of you inclined to worry, all I can say is Dan and I aren't worried.

### **Change in Price Structure for 2013**

The new CSA share price will be divided into two parts—the vegetable share and the membership fee. The new membership fee is intended to acknowledge and support the many benefits that come with CSA membership. Foremost among these are the pick-your-own herbs, flowers, and berries. Less obvious but perhaps equally important are access to open space, learning opportunities through participation, and the chance to commune with like-minded people. I'm sure these benefits are part of the reason our waiting list keeps growing (140 people and counting!).

For members splitting shares, both partners will be required to pay the membership fee. There will also be a two-partner-per-share limit for both full and half shares. Though abundant, our supply of pick-your-own items is not infinite, therefore without imposing daily picking limits (not practical, as we've learned), we need to control the number of people passing through the gardens and fields. If it's unclear how these changes might apply to you and your partner, the easiest thing would be to contact me or Dan with your questions.

As always, we're eternally grateful for the support we receive from our CSA members. We're certainly looking forward to a period of rest, but after another great season, we can't help but eagerly look forward to 2013.

Sincerely,  
Caroline & Dan