



New Local Restaurant Farm-Share Service **OVERVIEW** (updated 5/15/20)

The Northwest Connecticut Regional Food Hub works with 30 farms in northwest Connecticut picking up their fresh, locally grown produce and delivering it to happy wholesale customers (schools, grocery stores, and restaurants). During the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to continue supporting our region's farmers and getting fresh, healthy food to the region's residents. We also want to continue our relationships with our local chefs and restaurants and support them during this difficult time. In order to do that we propose to partner with local restaurants that would like to offer a farm/share CSA service to their customers. Currently we have **550 residents who expressed interest** in a farm share service through [our website](#) and are actively working with seven restaurant partners on this initiative.

HOW WILL IT WORK? You may have seen that many restaurants across the country are adopting this new service. Here are links to a few articles about them:

- [Locally-owned D.C. Restaurant Adopts CSA Model](#)
- [10 LA Restaurants Selling Produce Boxes to Support Local Farmers](#)

Restaurants reach out to their customers and allow them to order a "farm share" online. The restaurant then puts in a bulk order through our [online ordering system](#) by Monday of each week by noon. We will deliver your order by 10 am on Wednesday or Thursday depending on where you are located. You will then put together your shares and your customers can do curbside pick-up.

WHAT WILL IT COST AND WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED? You can decide how to price your shares. We have suggested a price to the customer of \$30/wk for a weekly share of produce for a family and \$15/wk for an individually sized share. The growing season is just getting underway here in Northwest Connecticut but salad greens, spinach, spring onions, radishes, and kale are growing. As the season progresses we'll have beans, leeks, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, herbs, potatoes- whatever is growing. Local bread and eggs can also be added to the shares and we're happy to source those for you as well. We will plan to post what will be available to include in the farm shares for that week on Sunday of each week. You can order what you want to include from that list.

WHAT WILL WE DO TO PROMOTE PARTNERS? As mentioned above, we have over 550 people who have gone onto our website to express interest in this farm-share service.

1. We will email them directly to tell them about our restaurant partners.
2. We will have partners listed on our [NWCT Food Hub website](#).
3. We will highlight these restaurants on [DiscoverLitchfieldHills.com](#).

INTERESTED? We'd like to know ASAP. Please contact Renee, Food Hub Manager at nwctfoodhub@gmail.com or 203-206-5459 (cell) FMI. Here is what we need from you:

1. Email us back to **tell us you are planning to participate**
2. Tell us by **what date will you be ready to start taking farm share orders** on your restaurant website or through your restaurant phone number. What **contact info** should we give interested participants?
3. Tell us **when you would like your first delivery** of fresh produce for the farm share service.

We look forward to working with you!