

# Invest in Health – Brix Bounty’s 2026 Summertime CSA

Join the Brix Bounty Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program

**Farm fresh vegetables grown with an emphasis on nutrition, quality, & flavor...  
vegetables grown with respect for the earth and future generations.**

~16 Week Season – (Tuesday June 2 or Friday June 5 through Sept 29/Oct 2<sup>d</sup>)

Vegetable Share: Tuesday Pickup from 2PM to 7PM at the farm – 449 Bakerville Road, Dartmouth

Vegetable Share: Friday Pickup from 2PM to 7PM at the farm – 449 Bakerville Road, Dartmouth

**Full Share Size \$800 - \$750      Partial Share Size \$650 - \$600**

**Optional Deep Nutrition Share \$100 - \$50**

**Our members receive 16 weekly distributions of Brix Bounty produce...  
newsletters from the farm, and first opportunity to join our Wintertime CSA.**



**ARUGULA + BASIL + BEETS + BROCCOLI + CABBAGE + CARROTS  
CAULIFLOWER + CELERY + CILANTRO + CUCUMBERS + DANDELION  
DILL + EGGPLANT + FENNEL + GARLIC + GREEN BEANS + HOT PEPPERS  
KALE + KOHLRABI + LEEKS + LETTUCE + MUSKMELONS + MUSTARD  
GREENS + ONIONS + PAC CHOI + PARSLEY + PEPPERS + POTATOES  
RADISHES + SCALLIONS + SHALLOTS + SPINACH + SUGAR SNAP PEAS  
SUMMER SQUASH + SWISS CHARD + TATSOI + TOMATOES  
TURNIPS + WATERMELONS + WINTER SQUASH + ZUCCHINI**

**What is a CSA?** Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs have grown in popularity since their introduction in the United States in the early 1990's. Massachusetts leads the nation in the percentage of farms offering CSA programs! There are a wide variety of CSA formats and most aim to build a deeper relationship between shareholders and the farm. CSA programs provide a method for members **to share the risk and bounty of the growing season with the farmers. Importantly, they also provide resources for farms to purchase seeds, fertilizers, & supplies in advance of the harvest and reduce the farm's reliance on traditional credit.** When you purchase a share in our CSA you receive a weekly allotment of the harvest; delicious Brix Bounty vegetables grown without the use of chemical fungicides, herbicides, or pesticides.

### **How Does Your CSA Work?**

CSA Members register for the season by filling out a registration form and sending along payment. We utilize these funds to purchase seeds and fertilize and pay our crew during the busy propagation season (when we seed our crops in the greenhouse). You receive a weekly share of veggies starting in early June and continuing for 16 weeks through mid-October. Distributions are held at the farm from 2PM-7PM on Tuesdays or Fridays, you may select your preferred day.

**Brix Bounty Farm** was founded in 2008 by Derek and Katie Christianson, our aim is to produce top quality produce with an emphasis on nutrition and flavor. In 2014 we moved our farm to our permanent home, at the King Farm on Bakerville Road in Dartmouth. For more information about our growing practices we encourage you to read our Growers Statement (see [www.brixbounty.com](http://www.brixbounty.com)). 2026 will be the 17<sup>th</sup> summer we are offering CSA shares to our community. In 2002, Derek started his farming career at Waltham Fields Community Farm, where he was introduced to the CSA model. After a stint growing vegetables at Bayes-Norton farm on Martha's Vineyard, we lived and farmed at Hawthorne Valley Farm in New York, where Derek co-managed a 250-member CSA. We are excited to have dropped anchor and continued our farming career here in Dartmouth, growing produce for our community, and nourishing your family.

We also operate a farmstand at our location on Bakerville Road. For some, the farmstand may offer a higher level of flexibility for purchasing produce; however not all crops that we grow for our CSA program will be available at the farmstand. **Our CSA customers are always our highest priority and primary market**, and a CSA membership is the only way to guarantee your share of limited supply crops (e.g. melons, sugar snap peas, etc.)

### **Stewarding the Land... Growing Vegetables with Respect for the Earth and Future Generations**

In 2014, Brix Bounty Farm relocated to the land we rent from the King Family on Bakerville Road. All of the fields we manage at Bakerville Road have been managed without synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides since 2010. While we use growing practices which focus on restoring health and vitality to the earth we are not certified organic and do not plan to become certified. Note: In 2026 our fertility plan will continue to include trials of targeted use of synthetic fertilizers as we aim to grow the best quality veggies for you. The use of these fertilizers (including calcium nitrate and mono ammonium phosphate) would exclude us from organic certification. Central to our stewardship effort are actions which build fertility through natural methods including the use of cover crops and applications of rock minerals, which alongside vibrant soil biology provide a foundation for growing healthy crops.



**We do not use synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides on the farm... and we don't plant GMO crops.**

*Ultimately our farming methods are grounded in embracing the inter-connected nature of ecosystems and the human environment; striving to improve our soil quality and help make farmland a valuable resource for future generations.*

### **What is Brix, Bionutrient Rich Crops, and Nutrient Density?**

We are proud to be among a growing number of farmers across the country who focus their production efforts on increasing the nutrient content of their crops. Our goal at Brix Bounty Farm is to produce and promote nutrient dense crops. This is not a quick process, invigorating soil biology and increasing the mineral content of our soils takes time, and therefore we are still on our journey toward high brix crops. We are blessed to take additional steps along this journey every year. We aim to provide great quality vegetables for our CSA every week of the season.

Brix, which is measured using a refractometer, approximates the total dissolved solids in a liquid. In our case it gauges the carbohydrates and plant metabolites of plant sap. Sugars are produced through photosynthesis in plants, and a higher brix reading often correlates with increased levels of phytonutrients in our crops. Working toward growing high brix crops not only brings a focus upon quality and taste, but it also emphasizes growing healthy crops with stronger immune systems, resistant to disease and pests; thereby reducing the need for rescue chemistry utilized in conventional agriculture.

### **Brix Bounty Farm in the Community...**

Increasing local capacity for growing healthy food is one of our farm's objectives. We are actively engaged in the community by training future farmers through an intensive farmer education program on the farm and teaching soil fertility and production courses to growers of all sizes throughout the Northeast.

### **Why Invest in Our CSA program?**

We are pleased to be among a great group of farms offering CSA opportunities on the Southcoast. Each farm's CSA offer different items in their shares, various days and times for pick-up, and subsequently fill different niches. At Brix Bounty we specialize in growing a diverse selection of seasonal vegetables for our CSA members. We highly recommend visiting SEMAP's wonderful on-line farm guide – <https://semaponline.org/guide/> to learn about neighboring CSA's in the region.



**Brix Bounty Farm 2026 Vegetable CSA Details:** Each season offers its blessings and challenges and may impact the amount and variety of produce members receive. When investing in Brix Bounty Farm's CSA program it is important to realize that you are *sharing the risk and sharing the bounty*. We strive to offer a balanced array of fresh vegetables each and every week and have worked hard to earn the respect of our shareholders over the past 15 years. Our crop selection will follow the harvest season from June through October and weekly distributions will vary depending on which crops are in season.

### **What is in a Vegetable Share (vegetables grouped by family)**

**Alliums:** Garlic, Leeks, Onions, Scallions, Shallots

**Chenopods:** Beets, Spinach, Swiss Chard

**Greens**

**Herbs:** Basil, Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, Sage, Thyme

**Brassicas:** Arugula, Asian Greens, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chinese Cabbage, Kale, Kohlrabi, Radishes, Pac Choi, Turnips

**Cucurbits:** Cucumbers, Melons, Summer Squash and Zucchini, Winter Squash, Watermelon

**Legumes:** String Beans and Sugar Snap Peas

**Umbels:** Carrots, Celery, Fennel

**Nightshades:** Eggplant, Tomatoes (Cherry, Heirloom, Paste, & Slicing), Hot and Sweet Peppers

We have officially cut sweet corn from our production cycle as the manual labor of small scale cultivation without herbicides have not penciled out... the King Farm will be selling local corn through the summer. **Our shares are grown and produced entirely by us on our farm on Bakerville Road.**

**Share Size:** We offer two share sizes, a full-size share which will include an average of 10-14 different vegetables each week and is suited for a couple or family who cooks most nights of the week and enjoy multiple servings of vegetables with their meals. A partial-size share includes on average 6-10 different vegetables and is designed for folks who cook 3-4 nights per week. **We must stress: Members who enjoy participating in our vegetable CSA program have the interest and enjoy spending time preparing meals and cooking.** For members who are new to seasonal eating, please note distributions are usually smaller in June as we wait for main season crops to mature, and naturally lighter again in the fall.

Are you new to a CSA membership? Preparing and cooking a bountiful variety of veggies can sometimes be a challenge; our cooking webpage has suggested seasonal cookbooks - <http://www.brixbounty.com/farm-produce/cooking/>. We are also in the process of updating our Crop Pages online, which include links to nutritional information and recipe ideas... check out the variety of veggies at <http://www.brixbounty.com/farm-produce/crops/>



Each season's harvest depends on the growing conditions and farm management decisions...

The veggies included in our bounty and variety will naturally vary season to season.

**CSA Share Price:** Our share prices reflect our deep commitment to growing top quality produce using sustainable practices which emphasize care for the earth. Central to our farming philosophy is a focus on healthy soils and we continue to amend our soils to build long term vitality while focusing on crop nutrition. Fair wages for our farm team are also central to our production practices, we deeply value our crew members which help make each season's bounty possible. Your investment supports us and helps the farm honor the efforts of the entire team.

**For a Full-Size 2026 Vegetable Share we are requesting a \$800 investment**

**– with a sliding scale option to \$750 for lower income members,**

**our Partial-Share is priced at \$650 with a sliding scale option to \$600**

We aim to distribute veggies for 16 weeks in 2026, depending on your share size and price you are investing approximately \$37.5 to \$50 per week for veggies. Most seasons we harvest a wonderful bounty, and offer a tremendous value for our members providing a season's distribution which exceeds your initial investment

At the heart of sustainable agriculture are fair prices for farm products; by investing with our CSA program you are directly strengthening the local food system and ensuring our farm will continue to provide locally grown produce for our community. **We sincerely believe investing in our CSA will not only be a culinary delight, but will become a cherished and significant source of health and vitality for your family.**

**Workshares:** Each season we offer a select number of "harvest shares" available for barter. The offset for workshares includes a minimum 5 hour per week commitment for 16 weeks during the harvest season plus an additional 50 hours in the spring or fall. We have a few slots available for 2026; if you are interested please contact Derek at 508-992-1868.

**Deep Nutrition Share Information:** Going forward we are striving to make accelerated steps toward improved nutritional quality in our production. We are inviting our CSA members to make a voluntary investment in our Capital Fertility Plan, dubbed the **Deep Nutrition Share** (\$50-\$100 investment for summertime shares). Contributions toward our Capital Fertility Plan are spent entirely on long-term fertility investments and will enhance the quality of each season's harvest.

2026 Deep Nutrition Share Investments will once again be focusing on improving fertility in our fieldhouses where we grow our early summer cucumber and tomato crops.

**As we continue to invest in mineral and biological improvements in our soils we will harvest, distribute, and eat vegetables which are higher in vitamins, minerals, anti-oxidants, and plant secondary metabolites. Yum!**



### Deep Nutrition Share Investment Information

Central to our growing practices at Brix Bounty Farm is a deep commitment to elevating the nutritional quality of our produce. This commitment includes an ongoing investment in the capital fertility requirements of our fields. Through conversations with our members in 2011 we decided we would take accelerated steps toward improving the nutritional quality of the produce we grow at Brix Bounty Farm. This decision is grounded in 2 sharp realities:

- 1) Although we already have a strong commitment to nutritional quality, we currently could be doing more to improve the nutritional value of our produce.
- 2) Long term, our farm will be best able to produce nourishing sustainable harvests if we aggressively amend our soils while the transportation costs of mineral inputs are relatively low.

A backstory... we are all faced with options and choices... in 2009, in the early Fall, we learned that Katie was pregnant with our first child. At the time we had very little infrastructure for wintertime production on the farm. One of my first actions as an expectant father was to contact Mike Merner at Earth Care Compost (<http://www.earthcarefarm.com/>) in South County Rhode Island. Mike has a terrific reputation for producing top quality organic compost and I could think of no better investment in the early prenatal nutrition of our family than to invest in his soil mixes for the raised beds I started to build in our greenhouse. Financially this was a significant investment for our household to undertake, but the result was terrific fresh greens harvested throughout December, January, and February of that winter. Combining Mike's soil mix with our blend of mineral amendments produced fine quality greens which yielded well, tasted excellent and provide our family with immensely valuable nourishment during that winter of growth.

We want to give our CSA community members the option to help our farm invest in our future fertility by making a voluntary contribution to our Deep Nutrition Share Fund. The proceeds of these contributions will be used to address the capital fertility needs as identified in our farm's current capital fertility plan.

**By investing in the Deep Nutrition Share you will not be receiving additional produce, but you will empower our farm to take actions to improve the nutritional quality of the produce you receive. The balance of personal health care costs has shifted too heavily toward remedy rather than prevention. We feel a social obligation to strive to improve the resilience of our communities by increase the nutritional value of our produce. The blessing of these actions is a strong correlation between flavor and nutrition. With your support, eating vegetables this summer will be more nutritious and delicious.**

For the 2020 growing season our deep nutrition share priorities will include applications of colloidal phosphate. As we continue to invest in mineral and biological improvements in our soils we will harvest, distribute, and eat vegetables which are higher in vitamins, minerals, anti-oxidants, and plant secondary metabolites. Yum!

**Eliot Coleman describes fresh nutritious produce as "Health Assurance" instead of Health Insurance.** As we continue to improve our soils, we hope to offer our CSA members an unmatched level of health assurance through the production and distribution of Brix Bounty Vegetables. One of our true aims at Brix Bounty is to honor the role and opportunity we have to produce "medicinal quality" food which nourishes our membership.

**Please join us in making a commitment to health and invest in a Deep Nutrition Share!**

## Looking Ahead to Brix Bounty 2021 Summertime CSA

### (a Letter to Our Shareholders)

*Our goal for our Brix Bounty CSA: To provide a wide selection of vegetables grown for you, which nourish and provide flavorful additions to your meals throughout the seasons.*

As we embark on our 12<sup>th</sup> season providing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Shares to the Southcoast I thought I would provide a few reflections on seasons past and seasons ahead.

A corona virus

B drought

C infrastructure

D labor

## In Pursuit of Flavor and Nutrition: Looking Ahead to Brix Bounty 2019 Summertime CSA

### (a Letter to Our Shareholders)

*Our goal for our Brix Bounty CSA: To provide a wide selection of vegetables grown for you, which nourish and provide flavorful additions to your meals throughout the seasons.*

As we embark on our 10<sup>th</sup> season providing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Shares to the Southcoast I thought I would provide a few reflections on seasons past and seasons ahead.

Our 2018 growing season was one of our most abundant harvests yet, though notably lacking in an abundance of cooking greens on the back half of the season. We made positive strides managing basil downy mildew, returned culinary herbs to the shares, and welcomed an abundance of beets, carrots, and potatoes to our shares. Our deep nutrition share investments focused on applications of high potassium seaweed which notably contributed to the robust root harvests.

This summer was also a true litmus test for our capacity, as we ran up against production limitations during the high season, specifically struggling to stay ahead of planting during the warmest weeks. While our planting is always going to be reduced during the most stressful periods of heat, we have decided it is time to better leverage our resources to reduce our exposure to extreme heat and drought each summer.

Looking ahead to 2019, we are planning to make a somewhat significant shift to our planting plan, with a new emphasis on utilizing irrigation for our mid-summer plantings. While my personal preference is to rely on the natural rhythms of mother nature, we have struggled to provide a consistent diversity of greens during the August heat (and in this past summer the heat impacted production into our normally abundant fall harvests).

And so..

Our 2017 growing season was marked by a cool and delayed start to the growing season and extended warmth to the fall. The summer featured a workload which included “foundational” work in our fields as we continued to address our rocky soils and emphasized tasks improving the conditions of our acreage. It was a somewhat

basic season as we temporarily excluded a few of our favorite crops from the planting plan (e.g. carrots) due to unexpected labor shortages. We enter 2018 with a talented team of returning crew members and a solid start to our production season; and are poised to refine our planting plan to meet our highest expectations... our pursuit of flavor and nutrition enters a new stage.

I recently spent a bit of time searching, rather unsuccessfully for a horseradish sauce at the grocery store which didn't include artificial or natural flavors; I would have anticipated the intensity of flavor in horseradish would have precluded a need for additional flavors. Alas, in the world of prepared foods, flavoring additives are everywhere, and sometimes in places you would least expect them. I'm reminded of the eye-opening experience of reading Fast Food Nation nearly two decades ago... what exactly are artificial and "natural" flavors on packaged food? (see <http://www.pbs.org/pov/foodinc/excerpt-fast-food-nation/3/> for an explanation).

"Natural" flavors are added to all types of

Seasonality and annual variation...

B

C

Side 2 > highlight brix bounty website... social media and events ? Farmstand

## We are Excited for 2019...

2019 Summertime CSA Registration is now Open

Registration forms are available online at [www.brixbounty.com](http://www.brixbounty.com)

Brix Bounty Website – Crop Pages

Instagram – We are occasionally active on social media... you can keep up with the farm at Instagram

Add url

Farmstand Opening Weekend & Farmstand Credit Certificates

Weather Dependent – Opening weekend for the farmstand will be Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019

CSA not flexible enough your lifestyle? Our Farmstand Credit Certificates are available

Pastured Protein...

**We look forward to growing a fine selection of nutritious vegetables for our members.**

**Notable Changes & Anticipated Highlights for our 2016 Summertime CSA**

**(November 15 2015)**

Important: **In 2016 we will be shifting our distribution days to Tuesdays or Fridays...** we have made this decision for three reasons:

- To better attempt to reserve family time for myself during the high season – shifting away from Monday distributions will allow Sunday work sessions to be a bit lighter. The definition of sustainable agriculture encompasses a broad territory and balancing consistent time for my family will be a critical step toward our farm’s long term sustainability.
- We need a non-harvest day with the crew and Mondays offer a great opportunity to start our “week” off in productive fashion. Finding time during the height of the harvest season for the full scope of tasks (greenhouse work, transplanting, cultivating, bed preparation, etc.) can be a challenge. We believe we can produce a better quality CSA share if we shift the focus one day per week solely toward fieldwork. In 2015, we missed critical planting dates in late July and early August; a result from a unanticipated shortage of labor. We are constantly working to design our farm systems to be more resilient in the face of expected and unexpected challenges.
- The need to have our full-crew available for CSA harvest mornings. We offer our crew vacation time during the growing season and typically this takes the form of long weekends. Harvesting for the CSA short-handed can make an already busy morning, push our limits. Tuesday distributions will ensure we have the full crew present for CSA harvest mornings.

We’ll be gently expanding our parking area and will shift our CSA distribution area a bit farther south (in the short term we may use tents for one more season in 2016), and soon hope to build a small CSA distribution shade“house” – which will be designed to better withstand the wind & rain and provide a more comfortable CSA pick up for our members...

We are still developing our long-term vision for the farm and while we will be planting a small scale pick your own (PYO) garden adjacent to the new CSA pick-up area in 2016, the space limitations won’t allow us to plant the full selection of PYO crops we used to offer on Tucker Road. In order to offer our CSA members an opportunity to experience the farm, and a wider array of pyo crops, we have decided to bring back our **Brix Bounty CSA Member Events** to celebrate the season. We are really, really excited about this and hope you’ll schedule some time to join us on 3 special Brix Bounty CSA Member Events in 2016:

- **Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup> at 3PM:** Celebrate Father’s Day by joining us for a tour of the fields and an afternoon visit to our Pick Your Own Patch. We hope to have sugar snap peas plus a few strawberries to pick. Registration via email or sign-up at the CSA pick-up tent.

- **Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 3PM:** Celebrate High Summer by joining us for a tour of the fields and an afternoon visit to our Pick Your Own Patch. We hope to have green beans, cherry tomatoes and (if the summer brings early season heat) muskmelons to pick. Registration via email or sign-up at the CSA pick-up tent.
- **Monday October 10<sup>th</sup> (Columbus Day) at 2PM:** Celebrate the Bounty of Fall by joining us for a tour of the fields and an afternoon visit to our Pick Your Own Patch. We hope to dig carrots and potatoes and might have the last of the season's green beans to pick. Registration via email or sign-up at the CSA pick-up tent.

Just like our weekly distribution the crop selection for our CSA Member Days are subject to change based on the growing season. We hope to create opportunities for our members to connect with the farm throughout the season and if deemed successful intend to make these events annual affairs.

Our crop selection for 2016 is still in the development stages and will definitely be a product of next growing season and what the 2016 spring, summer, and fall bring us. A few years back I decided we would consistently try to provide a solid crop of the “**Core 15**” each season: *basil, beets, cabbage, carrots, chard, cucumbers, green beans, kale, lettuce, onions, peppers, potatoes, summer squash & zucchini, tomatoes, and winter squash*. The crops included in our Core 15 are at the center of our annual cropping plan and have been staples of our CSA shares over the years. In 2015, we did a decent job of achieving our Core 15 targets. Beets and sweet peppers were the most notable underperformers, while cabbage and green beans were abundant in the early summer but absent from our fall distributions.

We are going to do everything in our power to ensure that **beets** make a glorious return next season (ahem, however no we will not resort to using pesticides). Spinach Leaf Miner was a big pest in 2015 and we are crafting a comprehensive strategy to improve crop quality while also disrupting the life cycle of the leaf miner with alterations to our cropping plans. This may include a much smaller planting of spring chard and spinach, which have created a “nursery” for young leaf miner development the past two seasons.

We intend to continue our efforts growing a small **sweet corn** crop for our CSA members. We are still trialing different varieties to determine which produce well under our growing methods and strict adherence to a no-spray pesticide policy – Ambrosia and Sugar Pearl have both earned spots in the rotation, and in 2016 we hope to add a 3<sup>rd</sup> variety to the mix...

Please let us know which crops are your family's favorites and which crops you would prefer to see less frequently in the CSA share. We'll be working on the final crop plans for 2016 through early January and look forward to incorporating some of your suggestions as we proceed.

### **Growing Local Vegetables – A Reflection on Real Estate, Planting Acreage, and Time** November 15, 2015

This fall has provided us plenty of mild afternoons to work in the fields and an absolutely bumper crop of greens for our Wintertime CSA Members. As we wrap up the planting season, our garlic crop is just getting planted next week, we are busy at work making plans for 2016 and literally creating the foundation for a great growing season ahead. 2015 was our 6<sup>th</sup> season offering a CSA to the Southcoast community and in some ways it was our most difficult. When we started Brix Bounty Farm in 2008 I decided to forego a CSA for the initial seasons as we worked to build up soil fertility on the new fields; my reasoning was I didn't want to rely on relatively immature fertility efforts to produce quality and quantity on a weekly basis. This summer we were challenged as we planted a significant portion of our production on fields which were in Season 1 of major fertility improvements. As we were met with another dry May our fertility efforts were slow to generate a response in the crops. Overall production quality was rather “middle of the road” with occasional exceptions along the way.

As we begin to grow deeper roots into the land on Bakerville Road we are facing a couple of decision points where we need to forge a path ahead in one direction. At times this season we have struggled with our identity, are we a small “big” farm or a big “small” farm? As our growing space expands beyond 6 acres its clear we are not a small “small” farm. We are attempting to create a niche in the wide space between small scale micro farms which typically avoid planting less

profitable crops, i.e. sweet corn, green peppers, and winter squash, and larger operations which benefit from mechanization throughout their production systems. Scale of course is relative, as pretty much all vegetable farms in Massachusetts are small when compared to the large scale wholesale production which supplies a majority of our nation's vegetables.

We have settled on this intermediate scale for a number of reasons, and rather than follow the shortest road to easy profit, I'm committed to developing an operation which meets both our farm and our communities needs. On our farm we have standardized our growing beds to approximately 1,200 square feet (each standard bed is roughly 220' long) and we currently have a little more than 230 beds available to plant each season. An acre measures 43,560 square feet, or about 36 beds. Growing on our scale allows us to be a bit stubborn, we can afford to plant sweet corn for our CSA members because we have enough space. If we were to scale down, it would necessitate eliminating a number of our most land intensive crops. Considering real estate or bed space for each crop is an annual exercise as we are ultimately land limited. While scaling up might be the solution for some growers, I've decided to maintain our moderate size because larger scale farms require more time focusing on management instead of "fieldwork" and ultimately I farm because I like the farming more than managing. Larger scale also requires greater reliance on mechanization, which changes the day to day experience of the farm. We left New York, because of a strong desire to grow our veggies in the community where we market our veggies. I'm not a fan of driving a truck and similarly not a big fan of spending multiple days per week on a cultivating tractor. And so we affirm our scale is appropriate for us, as it allows us to focus our marketing locally.

Our scale is also intentional because it provides us the production volume to offer good agricultural jobs to our crew. As we continue to mature as a farm, we intend to offer our crew full-time year round employment. This is not the norm on veggie farms in the northeast, where the seasonal nature of the work creates peaks and valleys in the need for labor. One of the reasons we are interested in expanding our winter fieldhouse production is that it helps to create year round income which allows us to keep the crew on during the winter months. Ultimately this is a win-win for everyone... it allows our community greater access to fresh greens during the dark months of winter, it provides steady employment for our farmers, and importantly for our farm it reduces the labor and effort training crew members each spring as employees return for a second and third season with us.

Let us return to the consideration of bed space on our farm, or real estate. Each season we develop our planting plan through a complex formula which includes: consumer demand, fertility needs and soil quality, crop profitability, marketing seasons, and resilience through diversity. The greatest strength of Community Supported Agriculture is the long term relationship we can develop with our members – we fully intend to supply your family vegetables for years and years to come. There is also a strength which presents some challenge, specifically the great diversity in crops required to provide a well rounded share experience.

A number of CSA farms work around this by bringing in additional crops to round out the narrower selection of crops they grow – I've always avoided this option because first and foremost I want our community to have complete trust in the produce we provide. Trust in the knowledge that synthetic herbicides, fungicides, or pesticides were not used in the production of the crops, trust in the understanding that your membership creates sustainable careers for myself and our crew, trust that quality is as important as the bottom line profit and we will continue to make decisions with our members at the forefront of our minds.

Growing a diverse selection of crops requires engaged field management, we are constantly juggling a long to do list each week and occasionally we have to make hard decisions – i.e. where to focus our attention when multiple crops demand action. Our crop selection is a result of these hard decisions. Sure we would love to provide sweet corn for you for a 10-week season, but do so would require us to devote nearly 20% of our acreage to corn and would eliminate many of the other crops which fill our shares each week. This year you may have found yourself wondering... what's up with all the onions? Indeed we had a good onion season on the farm, a result of smart planning, active pest management (we drenched our onions with beneficial nematodes in May which reduced loss to root maggot), and timely cultivation. What you might not know is that we planted nearly the same acreage in sweet corn as we did in onions! We planted 12 beds of sweet corn which yielded about 3 weeks of quality harvesting (though in fairness 3 of the sweet corn beds never made it

to the share tent, a victim of poor fertility and weed management). We planted 11 beds of onions, which provided weekly distributions of onions from Mid-July into December. **Under our planting scheme one bed of well tended sweet corn will yield approximately 33 dozen ears (not enough to provide each of our share holders with ½ dozen), where as our typical onion yields per bed are approximately 900 pounds, or enough to provide each of our shareholders with 10 pounds of onions.** From a bed space consideration these are the decisions we are forced to make – do we plant a bed of sweet corn which will provide you with 5 ears to share (allbeit one delicious meal) or a bed of onions which will provide you with a month's supply of onions.

Each season we refine our planting plan in hopes of achieving the proper balance of crops, some years crops out perform our expectations and provide overwhelming bounty. On the otherhand, occasionally we struggle to produce a quality crop when an obstacle becomes more significant than expected, managing crop diversity on our level typically entails some home runs and a few strikeouts each season. Part of me secretly enjoys a miss as much as a big hit, it makes our farming real, it humbles us grounding us in our current capacity, and it makes the comeback ever sweeter. Thanks for being a integral part of the Brix Bounty Team this season. We hope you'll continue to join us in 2016.