If you’re interested in procuring the freshest organic produce in the region, supporting small farmers and learning more about different varieties of vegetables that are not typically found in the supermarket, you should consider joining your local farm share program.

Two options for Staten Islanders considering participating in a farmshare, the Staten Island CSA and the Great Kills CSA, have announced that they are accepting membership applications for the 2021 season. Both farm share programs, also known as Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), work with a local farm based in New Jersey to provide members with a wide variety of perhaps the freshest produce available in the region.

“The organic produce could not be any fresher unless you grow it yourself. Supporting local farmers is a simple act we can all do to help preserve local farmland,” said Lenny Librizzi of the Staten Island CSA.

In a CSA, members pre-pay a farmer at the beginning of the season for a share of his farm’s output. Members pay in advance to support the work of the farm and are rewarded for their investment with a bounty of vegetables, fruit and eggs throughout the CSA season, which lasts from early June to late November.

Each week CSA members receive up to 12 different kinds of organic vegetables and herbs of varying amounts, depending on the success of the growing season and their level of membership. CSA members who purchase a vegetable share can also purchase fruit and egg shares.
Food distribution bags are loaded up and ready to go at the Staten island CSA.

Both the Staten island CSA and the Great Kills CSA support Circle Brook Farm and the farmer, John Krueger. Circle Brook Farm is a certified organic vegetable farm located in Andover, New Jersey. This year Farmer John is offering a 24-week delivery program for the 2021 season. He anticipates beginning deliveries during the week of June 6th. The final delivery will be during the week of November 14th.
Premium share, at $750, will contain, on average, 10-12 items and extras of the items in the basic share. Basic share, at $625, will contain, on average, 9-10 items. It will be approximately 75% of the Premium share. This year Staten island CSA members will also pay a $10 fee for supplies.

To keep costs down, there is a membership work requirement to help distribute fruits and vegetables and keep the CSA running smoothly. Members are required to work five hours over the 24-week season to support food distribution efforts.

A typical week's harvest at the SICSA

The Staten Island CSA pickups take place each Thursday in the Christ Church parking lot, 76 Franklin Avenue, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Great kills CSA food distribution also takes place each Thursday at Christ Lutheran Church, 121 Cleveland Avenue, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.

For more information on joining the Staten island CSA, visit http://statenislandcsa.org.

For more information on joining the Great Kills CSA, visit http://www.greatkillscsa.org.