



MACSAC

Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition
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Dear Partner Shares Participants, Past and Future:

Thank you for your participation and/or interest in Community Supported Agriculture and the Partner Shares Program. We welcome your eagerness to support local, sustainably grown food and to improve the nutrition of you and your household.

As you know, Partner Shares is a unique initiative aimed at improving nutrition and supporting local farmers in South Central Wisconsin. Our program provides financial assistance for low-income households. By covering 50% of the cost of a vegetable CSA share, we enable households to receive fresh, sustainably-grown produce from our CSA farms. Partner Shares subsidizes its Assistance Fund through local fundraising events, grants, and donations from individuals, organizations, and foundations. We hope you are eager to participate in another season of Partner Shares. The following information outlines how to sign up for your 2008 CSA.

The Partner Shares Process

Step 1. *Determine Qualification.*

- If you are a full-time student, you do not qualify.
- If you are not a full-time student, please verify that your household income level falls within one of the three brackets listed on the **Income Verification Form**.
- Be certain that you are up-to-date on past Partner Shares payments and that you do not have any outstanding balances due to MACSAC from previous seasons.

Step 2. *Choosing a Farm.*

- All of our CSA farms that have been MACSAC members for at least one year participate in the Partner Shares program, but only vegetable shares qualify for the subsidy. Please see attached CSA FARM DIRECTORY handout for a list of qualifying farms.
- Read through the complete farm list, available also from our website as a PDF document and in hard copy in the spring issue of the *Sustainable Times*.
- After you've narrowed down your choices, please contact the farms directly for more information regarding prices, pick-up sites, events, philosophies, practices, and an order form. Much of this will also be available online at our website, www.macsac.org/farmlist.
- Make sure there are still openings for the upcoming season; many farms fill up quickly.

Step 3. *Signing Up for Partner Shares.*

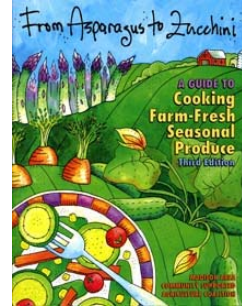
- Once you have chosen a farm, complete and mail back the attached forms included in this packet.
- Funding is limited, and **requests for Partner Shares assistance are granted on a first-come, first-serve basis**. Send the forms in as soon as possible.

Step 4. *Payment Plan.*

- Once we receive your forms, MACSAC pays the full cost of your CSA share to your chosen farm. The money is paid from the Partner Shares Assistance Fund at the beginning of the growing season.
- Then, you pay half of the cost of your CSA share back to Partner Shares in affordable monthly payments spread out over the rest of the season, or pay in full at the beginning of the growing season.

Step 5. *Special Offer! From Asparagus to Zucchini Cookbook.*

- If you qualify for Partner Shares, you can receive a copy of the MACSAC cookbook, *From Asparagus to Zucchini: A Guide to Cooking Farm-Fresh Seasonal Produce*, for only \$5 (discounted from \$18.50).
- The book is organized alphabetically by vegetable with information on storage tips, nutrition facts, and delicious, original recipes submitted by MACSAC farmers and farm members, and is extremely useful in learning how to best use the vegetables in your CSA share.
- You may order the book now by enclosing a \$5 check with your completed forms, or you may order it any time throughout the season.



Step 6. *Checklist.* Please review the following checklist before sending in your forms. Please make a copy for your records.

- Partner Shares Income Verification Form/Agreement Form
- Payment Plan Form
- Your Farm's Sign-up Form (your farm's brochure or online)
- \$5 check for MACSAC's From Asparagus to Zucchini cookbook (optional)
- Postdated checks for your share according to dates scheduled on your Payment Plan, or a check for the entire payment

Send completed forms to:

**Partner Shares Program
c/o Madison Area CSA Coalition
P.O. Box 7814
Madison, WI 53707-7814**

Thank you for supporting CSA in your community and for your prompt response. Please don't hesitate to call us at 608.226.0300, or email us at info@macsac.org, with any questions or concerns. You can also call your farm directly. We hope you enjoy your CSA experience.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Resnik
MACSAC Communications Coordinator

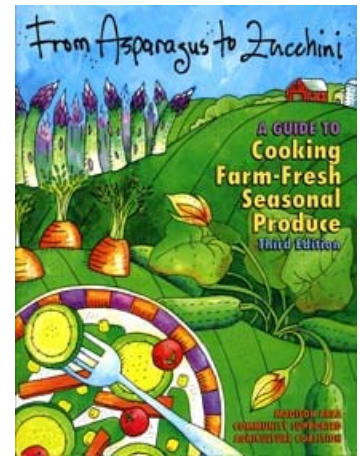
Yes! I would like to take advantage of this special offer and order the MACSAC cookbook, *From Asparagus to Zucchini*.

I have enclosed a check for \$5 made out to MACSAC.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____



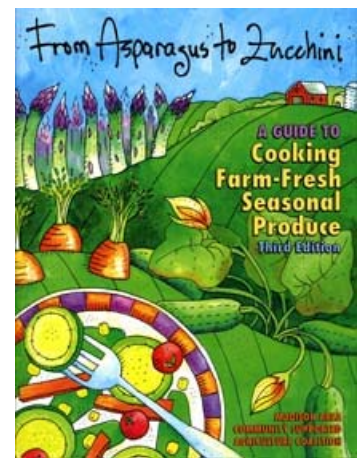
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