



MACSAC

Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition

PO Box 7814, Madison WI 53707

608-226-0300 info@macsac.org www.macsac.org

2010 MACSAC GROWER APPLICATION

Application Process for growers interested in being formally endorsed by MACSAC:

- 1) Fill out and send or **email** this application to the email/mail address above by **November 15, 2009**. No late applications will be accepted due to the printing deadlines for our farm list.
*****Typed and emailed applications are greatly appreciated, electronic applications are available, please email info@macsac.org to request one*****
- 2) The MACSAC New Grower Committee will review your application and set up a 1 hour meeting with you to explain how the coalition works, answer any of your questions, and judge your ability to manage a successful CSA farm.

Please check the following dates/times you would be available for a 1 hour interview:

- Tuesday, December 1st 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Thursday, December 3rd 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Saturday, December 5th 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

- 3) The New Grower Committee will make a recommendation to the MACSAC board about whether to formally represent applicant farm for the coming season.
- 4) Farm is notified of decision by December 31st. Possible decisions are
 - **Acceptance** – Your farm will be formally endorsed by MACSAC beginning on January 1, 2010
 - **Deferral** – MACSAC believes your farm is compatible with our goals and mission, but we would like you to gain additional experience and address areas of concern before we formally endorse you. MACSAC will work with you to address the areas of concern and we encourage you to reapply for endorsement next year. MACSAC will communicate with you about mentorship opportunities and encourages you to take advantages of resource sharing opportunities of the coalition.
 - **Rejection** – Your farm is not compatible with MACSAC's goals and we cannot endorse you unless you make major changes on your farm. If you make these major changes to your farm you are encouraged to begin the application process again next year.
- 5) Farm is welcome and encouraged to attend the MACSAC annual meeting on **December 12**.

Name of Farm:

Contact Person(s):

Address:

Telephone / Email:

MACSAC * PO Box 7814 * Madison, WI 53707-7814 608.226.0300 info@macsac.org

1. **Land and Infrastructure**

How many acres of tillable land do you own?_ _____

How many acres of tillable land do you rent? _____

Is your future tenure on this land secure?

What tools/machines do you have for farm/garden production?

What provisions do you have for irrigation? List your irrigation water sources along with flow rate of water from each source, if known. Describe your irrigation methods (drip, sprinkler, etc.)

What provisions do you have for cooling crops and cool storage? Provide dimensions of any refrigerators or coolers.

2. History of farm and farming experience

Fill out the following table for each of the last five years in which you have owned or managed a farm, as well as for the coming year, 2010.

Year	Location (Current farm / Previous farm)	Organic (O) / Transit. (T) / Convent. (C)	Number of CSA Members	Markets other than CSA at which you sold your farm products	Percent of total sales through CSA	Acres in Veggies	Total Acres Farmed	Products Raised (e.g., Vegetables, Fruit, Milk, Beef, etc.)
Plans for 2010:								
2009								
2008								

Fill out the following table with farm work experience on other farms:

Year	Farm Name	Location	Crops	Acres Farmed	Markets

Describe any other important farm-related experience which is not mentioned in the above tables. E.g., work experience, education, etc.

3. Labor

Fill out following table about how you met your labor needs in 2009 and how you plan to meet them in 2010

	2009		Plans for 2010	
	No. of workers	Hours worked	No. of workers	Hours worked
Family members				
Hired labor				
Interns				
CSA Members				
Other _____				

4. Organic Farming Practices

Is your farm currently certified organic?

Note: All MACSAC sponsored farms who are not currently certified must apply for organic certification within 60 days of becoming a sponsored farm. You should have received a copy of MACSAC's organic certification policy together with this application. Please read the policy.

If your farm is not currently certified organic, please answer the following questions:

- 1) Have you read organic standards?
- 2) Do you expect that your farm will be certifiable next year?
- 3) Describe any changes which you will need to make in your farm to make it certifiable?

Briefly describe your plan, including amendments or inputs used in the last three years, for:

Soil-building:

Seed Sourcing.

Pest Control:

Weed Management:

What cover crops do you use?

How often do you have your soil tested?

What soil conservation practices do you use?

5. **Marketing Experience**

Briefly describe your experience, other than managing a CSA, in communicating or selling food directly to people, stores, restaurants or others.

6. **CSA Experience & Planning**

For each of the following questions, describe what you provided in the most recent season and what changes you plan to make in the coming year.

Share options offered: (E.g., weekly/biweekly deliveries, box sizes, delivery seasons, storage shares)

Last Year:

Changes In Coming Year:

Items to be provided in share: (E.g., vegetables, milk, eggs, soap. Do not list every specific vegetable)

Last Year:

Changes In Coming Year:

How do you promote your CSA to potential members:

Last Year:

Changes In Coming Year:

How do you communicate with members?

Last Year:

Changes In Coming Year:

How are members be involved in farm? (Work shares? Member events?)

Last Year:

Changes In Coming Year:

How and where do members pick up shares?

Last Year:

Changes In Coming Year:

List crops or products provided to members which you do not produce yourself. Who produces them?

7. **Include each of the following with your application:**

- A copy of 2010 CSA brochure, or if that is not available include your 2009 brochure. **A draft brochure is better than nothing.**
- Two CSA newsletters from last year.
- If you provide members with a written survey, include a blank survey from last year.
- A list of box contents from one box which you provided last year in mid July and a box which you provided in mid September. Include amounts of each item provided in the box. If you did not manage a CSA last year, then provide box contents from a box which you plan to provide in mid July and one which you plan to provide in mid September.

8. **Why do you want to become a member of MACSAC?**

9. **Grower Mentor Program**

MACSAC manages a grower mentorship program in which experienced MACSAC farmers lead four hour educational sessions on specific topics related to managing a CSA farm. If you are interested in attending these mentorship sessions, please list topics which you would like to learn about:

10. Agreement to participate in the coalition:

All endorsed farms must meet the following requirements:

- Attend the annual meeting in person or by proxy
- Provide documentation of organic certification, or provide documentation of certification application, as described in MACSAC's organic certification policy.
- Pay the annual fee, \$20-\$50 sliding scale

We strongly encourage endorsed farms to do the following:

- Actively participate in one MACSAC committee or the Board (Finance, New Grower committee, Land Trust Partnership, Foodbook committee, organizing grower gatherings)
- Communicate information about MACSAC programs to my members including the Partner Shares fund for low-income households, Insurance Provider Rebate Program, A-Z Foodbook, and MACSAC events
- Provide MACSAC with annual information regarding acreage and number of members
- Provide members with the opportunity to make donations to the Partner Shares Fund or farm specific assistance fund for low-income members

I have read and understand my requirements as a member of MACSAC

Signature

Date

Please return this questionnaire with required documents via post or email BY NOVEMBER 15, 2009 to MACSAC, Attention New Grower Committee, PO Box 7814, Madison, WI 53707-7814 or info@macsac.org