



# Xcellence

**Running a CSA can be hard and lonely work, which is why you should celebrate your achievements and make sure you share the good as well as the more demanding times. After all, community supported agriculture is about sharing the rewards as well as the risks of farming.**

Try to find time to record your triumphs - photograph significant events, record or video mini interviews when you're sowing or harvesting, keep any newspaper clippings, frame funding certificates. Perhaps make it someone's role to apply for any awards (where nominating yourself is allowed), for example run by charities, organisations, local or national media, that acknowledge community spirit or environmental impact. Such awards can be great for morale as well as fantastic marketing opportunities.

Reading about other people's CSA successes - a successful funding bid, a record harvest, a wonderful volunteer, a great bit of media coverage - on Facebook or in a newsletter can be inspiring and uplifting so make sure you tell other people what you've achieved and how you did it. Such sharing helps us to build a national community of CSAs, and you can be sure that the CSA Network UK will help you share the good news with other CSAs.

Plan annual events for your member, volunteers and farmers to recognise and reward great work. Harvest events are wonderful and Halloween, a Christmas party or Solstice bonfire is a great way to find cheer together in the cold, dark months.

Consider holding a light-hearted awards night with prizes for most dedicated volunteer, happiest

farmer and best fundraiser. Have an award for any children involved too - maybe a picture of the funniest vegetable? Ask enthusiastic members to organise such events, and share the highlights with local newspapers and radio stations as well as on social media.

## Examples of awards won by CSAs

Bosavern Community Farm were joint winners of the Cornwall Sustainability Award in 2015. They won the "Best Contribution towards Creating a Sustainable Food Economy - From Nature to Plate" category organised by Cornwall Council and the Environment Agency.

Foodsmiles St Albans won two awards in the Mayor's Pride Awards as part of 2015 Sustainable St Albans Week. They came top in Community Project of the Year and Environmental Champion. They were finalists for "Service to the Community" in the Hertfordshire Life Food & Drink Awards 2017.

The Community Farm in Somerset won Best Box Scheme in the Soil Association's BOOM (Best of Organic Market) awards in 2016. The awards recognise amazing organic products, retailers, and restaurants and bloggers who promote organic food and living.

The Community Farm was also shortlisted for Best Local Food Retailer in the Western Daily Press Food & Farming Awards 2016.

The Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm, Suffolk, has been recognised a number of times in Suffolk County Council's "Creating the Greenest County" awards, known locally as the "Suffolk Green Oscars".

