



Helping Community Supported Farms to Grow

CSA Network UK Achievements 2017-2019

Our Membership is Growing and So are Their Farms

Our membership has continued to increase with an additional 24 members joining since 2017, bringing our membership to 64 as of March 2019. Our members are growing in size too and we now have 17 medium or large CSA farms compared to 11 in 2017. Our map, which endeavours to list all UK CSAs, whether members or not, shows 100+ CSA farms producing vegetables, fruit, flowers, herbs, meat, eggs, wheat and willow and feeding over 15,000 people across the UK.

Advice and Support

Thanks to funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation we now have two members of staff working to provide advice and support for UK CSA through mentoring, events, adhoc advice and campaigning.

Mentoring:

Our programme offers face-to-face, on farm support from one of our experienced mentors on a bespoke topic chosen by the mentee. In the past two years we have provided mentoring for 12 existing CSAs and 9 seedling CSAs.

Our mentees have said:

"The visit was incredibly useful and we would thoroughly recommend the service to other CSAs. Our mentor provided an opinion on issues we have been long debating, ideas that we had never thought of, enthusiasm for embryonic ideas and info on pertinent places to visit, links to current research and lots of positivity and encouragement"

"It's been the most helpful and reasonably priced organisation I've contacted for myself at this stage. Helping people with limited experience to set up from scratch is so valuable. Thanks so much."

"Thanks. We put your advice into practice and things are going well, consolidating delivery to one day has made a big difference, and we have had a steady increase in customers."

Resources

Our fabulous A-Z guide to setting up a CSA was published in 2018 and is an amazing compilation of (almost) everything you could need to know about starting a CSA.



Events

Over the last two years we have put on six events including two AGMs at Fork and Dig It CSA in Brighton and in London in partnership with Gaia Foundation's *We Feed the World* Exhibition. We have run gatherings in the South West, the South East and the North of England as well as Northern Ireland and have contributed to further events including the Oxford Real Farming Conference.

Campaigning

We represent our network and engage with policy makers through the Fruit & Vegetable Alliance and Sustain's Agriculture Working Group. We've contributed to policy briefings and discussions on the new Agriculture Bill, the forthcoming National Food Strategy and others.



Promotion and Publicity

We continue to raise awareness of CSA through our website www.communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk, social media and campaigns. Our autumn 2018 Open Day saw over 20 CSAs across the country organising events and using our new publicity materials. We also promote CSA through regular updates on social media via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and through our regular e-newsletter and our audience is growing with Facebook followers rising by nearly 40% in the last two years.

Funding and Support

We are hugely grateful to our funders during this period. Our funders have been: The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, National Lottery Awards for All and The Naturesave Trust.

We are also grateful to our supporters who have been: Containerwise Materials Handling, Agralan and Moles Seeds.



Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Network UK Limited

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