CSA NETWORK UK

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CASE STUDY: TEIGN GREENS

A HORTICULTURAL CSA IN RURAL DEVON

Established: 2020
Type: Producer-led
Legal Structure: Community Interest Company
Paid staff: 2.6 FTE (Four people)
Trainees: 0.8 FTE (Two trainees)
Volunteers: 1.2 FTE (Six people)
Produce: Vegetables
Members/shares: 70 year-round
Member radius: 3 miles
CSA turnover: £92,000 including £50,000 of grant funding
Buy in to supplement produce: Yes

Land: Growing on 1.5 hectares on a 20 hectare larger farm rented with a tenancy agreement and informal partnership
Infrastructure: Two polytunnels, packing and storage shed and shared infrastructure with farm (kitchen etc)
Approach: Min till, biodynamic in an agroforestry system
And... Teign Greens went from idea to CSA in less than six months and three years in have the turnover to support a new family

The seed...

Tim and Holly moved to the farm at the beginning of the pandemic without a clear idea of what they were planning. However they saw the huge demand for produce as supermarket shelves emptied and at the same time discovered the CSA model. Working in partnership with the existing farm where they were based and with support from the local community, they very quickly put together a plan for a CSA veg box scheme. They had support from other established CSAs in the local area, and soon had a merry cohort of volunteers from the local community. There was a waiting list from day 1!

Grew...

Tim and Holly are hugely grateful to their amazing team of volunteers who enabled the CSA to grow so quickly and to the host farm who have supported the project and allowed them to access infrastructure and machinery that they would otherwise have been unable to afford. The wider farm community has also provided emotional support with weekly check in meetings and sharing circles which bring together everyone from Teign Greens, the wider farm, the educational project based on the farm and others who live there.

And...

Tim and Holly would like to get to 150 members which they see as sustainable numbers. Once they've achieved this they are then keen to look at other ways they can contribute to a sustainable food system , whether this is becoming a local food hub, bringing he more sustainable suppliers or other projects. Tim has been talking to a lot of people who want to be involved in wider joint projects involving different produce, access to food and the local food bank.

Photo credits: Tim Dickens