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The growing season is approaching- reserve your CSA share!

With the passing of winter solstice, brighter days and a new growing season are quickly approaching, which means fresh, local produce is on the horizon! The Calypso Shareholders Core Group invites you to become a shareholder in the 2012 Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) program. Calypso's CSA is based on a partnership between the Farm and its shareholders, which begins long before each growing season. Shareholders purchase a share and Calypso invests the money in the seeds, equipment, and supplies to provide community members with quality locally grown produce. Calypso shares both the bounty and the risks of its fields with each shareholder.

Shares in the season's harvest are distributed weekly and generally last 16-18 weeks from June through the end of September. In addition to the benefits of eating fresh, locally grown vegetables, shareholders receive a weekly Farm Note (containing farm news and recipes) and take part in "Pick Your Share Up at the Farm Day!"

Calypso's CSA seeks to provide the freshest locally grown produce possible at a fair price while keeping the Farm viable. The Core Group works closely with Calypso staff each year to determine a fair price for the CSA shares that is based on covering the Farm budget. For the 2011 season, the value of each Family share was \$730 and the value for each Economy share was \$390. Below are the 2012 CSA share options, we hope you will consider joining us for this coming season!

2012 Share Options

Family Vegetable Share - \$625 This share includes a full array of vegetables for a family of 4+, which will be distributed weekly from early June through September (16 – 18 weeks). You will receive mixed greens and herbs as part of this share for most of the season.

Economy Vegetable Share - \$375 This share includes a full array of vegetables for an individual or a couple, which will be distributed weekly from early June through September (16-18 weeks). You will receive mixed greens and some herbs as part of the share for most of the season.

Flower Share - \$200 Brighten your surroundings with a weekly flower bouquet! The bouquet season usually lasts 8-10 weeks from mid-July through September, weather dependent!

Additional Options

Storage Vegetables - Storage vegetables are an add-on option available with the *Family* or *Economy* vegetable shares. Storage vegetables will be distributed at the end of the season, during the months of August/September. All storage vegetable orders must be made by April 1st. Any orders after April 1st will be considered based on availability.

Herbs - \$50 At the beginning of the season you will receive a variety of herbs that are ready to be transplanted into your garden! Details regarding pick-up times will be included in the shareholder welcome letter.

Calypso's mission is to encourage local food production and environmental awareness through hands-on education in natural and farming ecosystems.

Membership

Membership Requirement- We ask all of our shareholders to demonstrate their commitment to Calypso's educational programs and efforts to improve food access and security in our community. Calypso is dedicated to providing its CSA members with delicious veggies all summer long; however, we have a much larger mission we strive to achieve, and we invite you to join us in our efforts! Membership is an annual donation of any amount that goes toward our educational programs.

Low Income Share Donation- Calypso is committed to making locally grown foods available to everyone at various income levels. By making a donation to this fund you support Calypso's ability to offer a sliding scale for lower income share holders.

Picking –up Produce

The farmers harvest on Mondays and Thursdays. Pickups are at the following times and locations:

5:00 – 6:00 pm Monday in Downtown Fairbanks (Golden Heart Plaza)

2:00 – 3:30 pm Thursday at the Farm (Mile 5 of the Old Nenana Highway)

5:30 – 6:30 pm Thursday at Ester Park, next to the Ester Volunteer Fire Station

Payment Plan

A payment plan is available for any shareholder who prefers to make four incremental payments in place of one payment of the full amount. Those who choose this option will make a down payment of \$200 for a Family Share or \$100 for an Economy share. The remaining balance (including any additional shares, membership donation, etc.) will be divided into three equal payments due on the 1st of each month. If paying by credit card, Calypso will automatically deduct your payment on the 1st. If paying by check, you will receive an invoice reminder via email. All shares must be paid in full by June 1st.

Calypso also accepts Food Stamps for CSA Share Payment and offers a sliding scale for those in need. Flexible payment plans are also available. If you are interested in either of these options please call Calypso's Office & Development Director, Isabeau Coskey, to find out more 451-0691.

Work Requirement

Each share includes a commitment of 4 hours of work to the Farm during the 2012 growing season. There are a wide variety of tasks to choose from, which means there is something for everyone, including anyone who cannot join us in the fields for physical labor. **By signing up for a share, you are committing to fulfilling the 4 hour work requirement.** We will send more information about the work requirement, including options of dates to choose from in the Shareholder Welcome Letter. If you have concerns about fulfilling this requirement but still want to become a 2012 shareholder, please call the Farm to discuss possible alternatives.

We are looking forward to sharing a bountiful harvest with you in 2012!