



## CSAs in Hawai'i

As consumers limit trips to stores and restaurants due to COVID-19, CSAs have gained popularity as a direct source of local produce and food products.

### What is a CSA?

CSA is an acronym for *Community-Supported Agriculture*. A CSA is a membership-based subscription for local fruit, vegetables, and/or other food products. Members receive a bundle of items at regular intervals in exchange for a subscription or membership fee. There are many variations on the CSA model. For example, some CSAs require payment at the start of a season, while others offer a pay-as-you-go plan. Some CSAs accept SNAP benefits or offer discounts.

### Why participate in a CSA?

CSAs can help farmers because the membership fee is typically paid in advance or in several scheduled payments over time. Producers can plan on this income and use the money to buy supplies, pay workers, and handle other farm expenses (USDA-NAL, 2019). For consumers, a CSA can be an introduction to local products or new foods.

CSAs have pickup and/or delivery options which may help minimize in-person contact and health risks during the COVID-19 pandemic. CSAs may also have an option to order online or over the phone.

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### How can I participate in a CSA?

Use the following resources to find CSAs in your area:

- Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i's Hawai'i Farmer Support List:  
<http://go.hawaii.edu/mKA>
- GoFarmHawai'i's Find-A-Farmer:  
<https://gofarmhawaii.org/find-your-farmer/>
- Hawai'i Farm Bureau's Local Food Access List:  
<https://hfbf.org/local-food-access/>

### Reminder!

When receiving your CSA or doing other food shopping, take precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce risk of exposure to the virus:

<http://go.hawaii.edu/8KA>



### References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, April 9). *Running Essential Errands: Grocery, Shopping, Take-Out, Banking, Getting Gas, and Doctor Visits*. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/essential-goods-services.html>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library (USDA-NAL). (2019, May). *Community Supported Agriculture*. Alternative Farming Systems Information Center.  
<https://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/community-supported-agriculture>

