



2025 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Membership Agreement

WHAT IS A CSA?

- A CSA is a business model that allows a consumer to buy a “share” of the farm for that year. The member pays a fee at the beginning of the growing season and in return, gets a share of the produce that is produced at the farm. This model allows us (Lobato Farms) to purchase the seasons supplies, seeds, and materials at the beginning of the growing year and is a way that we can ensure we have buyers for the produce when it is ready for harvest.

HISTORY OF THE FARM

Property purchased fall of 2020. Formerly a large, sheep ranch for years and the previous rancher sold his sheep to the Navajo tribe in Utah.

- We spent hundreds of hours cleaning up tons of debris and reclaiming the land. You can see where we started by viewing our video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg_yUyEBUWQ
- Herbicides will not be used in the market garden – we use cover crops and manual weeding to mitigate weed pressure.
- We have bees! So, any pesticide that we may use in the garden will be organic in nature and bee safe.
- Herbicides may continue to be used along fence lines, roadsides etc. (spot spraying) but never on windy days.
- Farm is planted in 100% western-native grasses and wildflowers.
- Powered by solar energy.
- We are a Colorado Dept. of Ag. STAR+ program recipient
<https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/soil/participate/star>
- Below is a historical photo of the property. When you visit, you will see that it is quite different:



OUR PHILOSOPHY

- Our philosophy is to grow as naturally as possible. To keep costs low, we are not certified 'organic' or any similar designations. We use common small-farm tools and methods to plant and harvest. We use organic nutrient liquids such as 'compost tea' and related products.

LOCATION & CLIMATE

- Grown and produced on the Colorado Plateau, Grand Valley, in Fruita, Colorado at 4,568 ft. elevation.
- Soil: sandy loam deposited here by the Colorado River.
- Water: Water is provided by our irrigation system that is fed from the Grand Valley Irrigation Canal which is supplied by the amazing Colorado River.
- Climate: known as a local steppe climate. This location is classified as BSk (semi-arid) by Köppen and Geiger. The average temperature in Fruita is 11.4 °C | 52.5 °F. Precipitation here is about 293 mm | 11.5 inch per year.
- The driest month is June. There is 8 mm | 0.3 inch of precipitation in June. The greatest amount of precipitation occurs in March, with an average of 33 mm | 1.3 inch.
- With an average of 27.5 °C | 81.5 °F, July is the warmest month. The lowest average temperatures in the year occur in January, when it is around -4.3 °C | 24.3 °F.

FUTURE PLANS

- 1+ acres of hybrid wine grapes and trellised blackberry and fruits
- Farm store with art, produce, jewelry, western/plant books, western-native starter plants/trees, misc.

SHARING THE RISKS

- It is possible that losses of crops can occur for many reasons such as drought, hail, wind damage, pests, disease, financial/physical hardship, etc. Members fully understand this and are "invested" in the farm and share in its bountiful harvests and failures equally.

IN TIMES OF FEAST

- In times that we have more than the members want or can share with their friends or family, Lobato Farms will donate the excess food to a local food bank.

IN TIMES OF FAMINE

- To keep our members loyal and happy, Lobato Farms will in good faith and to the best of our ability, exhaust all efforts to minimize loss of value of the membership and make reasonable substitutions. For example, if we lose all our tomatoes to a virus, we may substitute extra fruits, vegetables, eggs or honey, or even offer baked goods such as zucchini bread or tamales near Christmas time.

CSA MEMBERSHIP PRICING FOR 2025

- ***We are moving away from the “produce subscription” model towards a more traditional Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Assistance with planting, weeding, harvesting and cleaning is required to keep the costs low and for this to be sustainable. I do need a core of at least 2-3 weekly helpers, but all CSA members should be excited to get your hands dirty planting and caring for some rows.***
- Pay in full **\$200** by cash, check or credit/debit card by May 1st, 2025.
- Or make small payments until May 1st.
- What’s Included:
 - Share of garden fruits/veggies as they are ready for harvest
 - 1 12oz. Jar of Honey in Sept. subject to bee survival and/or availability
- Membership term begins your date of enrollment through December 31st.
- ‘U-Pick’ Style Example - Harvest what you want, leave what you don’t:
 - Early season (weeks 1-4): radishes, beets, spinach, chard
 - Mid-season (weeks 5-15): kale, zucchini, tomatoes, chard, cucumbers
 - Late season (weeks 16-20): cucumbers, squash, garlic, radishes, turnips, pumpkins, cantaloupe, watermelon
 - End of Season: flame roasted green chiles, canned tomatoes, frozen shredded zucchini.

THE FARMS INPUTS

- Your nominal \$200 fee pays for farm seed, supplies, tractor fuel, irrigation (\$400+ this year), domestic water, electricity, tools, compost teas/nutrients/fertilizers, organic pesticides such as neem oils, and labor.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- There is no cancellation policy.

PICKUP

- Pickup is not regularly scheduled.
- You are free to harvest your own as they are ready “U-Pick” style.
- You are encouraged to bring your own reusable bags.

2025 FARM PLAN & OUR PLEDGE TO YOU

- In addition to being President of the Mesa Conservation District and many other community committees and panels, I (Michael) will be continuing my biochar research as well as working for Dr. Perry Cabot at the CSU Fruita Research Center.
- We are a small family-owned farm that strives to build a community around getting our hands dirty and growing great food in this harsh high desert.
- We want our members to feel like they get excellent value for their money.

COMMUNICATION

- Email: mlobato@outlook.com or sjlobato@outlook.com
- Call or Text: 970-623-1575 (Michael) or 970-216-2857 (Sara)

IN YEARLY HONOR OF

- My father: William Anthony “Tony” Lobato (www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/grand-junction-co/william-lobato-10379891), who was carried away by a spirit horse in the fall of 2021. He was instrumental and supportive of this undertaking and was able to see the farm reclamation and transformation into the foundation that it is today. He was immensely proud of us in this endeavor, and we hope to continue to make him proud.
- My mother, Teresa J. Lobato, who is extremely supportive of the farm and is a natural green thumb; she starts most of our plants, enjoys working in the garden throughout the summer and is an excellent artist [Joanne Lobato \(@jlobatoart\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

By signing below, you agree that you fully understand the risks, rewards, terms, and conditions. You understand that while visiting the working farm, you will not hold Lobato Farms, LLC or its members liable for any injuries resulting from farm activities or environmental conditions at the farm. You are also acknowledging that you want a more healthy, vibrant, and innovative community. You understand that you may be able to purchase produce elsewhere (City Market) for cheaper (maybe), but you are willfully choosing to support local, small, family-farms as well as local food banks and pantries, and for that, we are forever grateful.

Welcome to the farm,

Michael & Sara Lobato & Family

First & Last Name:	
Address:	
City/State/Zip:	
Cell Phone:	Home Phone:
Email:	

X

Print

X

Sign

Date: _____



VOLUNTEER [OPTIONAL]

FIRST + LAST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

CELL PHONE

HOME PH.

EMAIL

I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING FARM ACTIVITIES AT LOBATO FARMS, LLC:

- GENERAL FARM HELP – PERT NEAR EVERYTHING
- PLANTING
- THINNING/WEEEDING
- HARVESTING + RINSING
- FEEDING/WATERING ANIMALS
- EGG COLLECTION/WASHING/PACKING
- CLEANING/REFRESHING CHICKEN COOP
- COMPOSTING
- HARVESTING + PACKAGING HONEY

I UNDERSTAND THAT VOLUNTEERING IS AT-WILL, AND I AM FREE TO VOLUNTEER AS MUCH OR LITTLE AS I WISH. I UNDERSTAND TO KEEP ALL GATES CLOSED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT INJURIES MAY OCCUR ON THE FARM AND I WILL NOT HOLD LOBATO FARMS, LLC, OR ITS MEMBERS LIABLE FOR INJURY. I WILL LEAVE MY PETS AT HOME WHEN VISITING. I AM HERE TO SHARE GOOD COMPANY, HAVE FUN, SOAK UP SOME SUN AND DO COOL FARM STUFF.

X

Print

X

Sign

DATE:
