

NEWS RELEASE

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Visit a community supported farm near you

Community supported farms across the South and South-East of England are opening their gates for the first-ever CSA Network UK Open Day on Saturday 1 October.

It's a chance for the whole family to find out more about community supported agriculture (CSA), where the risks and rewards of farming are shared between farmers and members of the community.

Special events include: -

- Visit the beautiful site at [Brighton CSA - Fork and Dig It](#). It's open Saturday *and* Sunday for tours and refreshments including cake, clay-baked pizza and freshly-picked salad.
- Take a farm tour, meet the pigs and chickens and pick your own raspberries at [Future Farms - Martin](#), Fordingbridge, Hampshire.
- A chance to look around [FoodSmiles St Albans](#), Hertfordshire. Volunteer for the afternoon and join in sowing and planting organic crops for the winter.
- Watch horse-drawn cultivation (weather permitting of course!) at the brand new [Wild Roots Veg](#) CSA, near Heathfield, East Sussex. Take part in farm-related family activities.

Community supported agriculture farms vary in the way they are run. CSA members may pay in advance for their produce, invest in the farm, and/or help out with growing and harvesting.

They all aim to increase transparency, sustainability and resilience within our domestic food system by promoting local, seasonal food and reducing food miles. Britain produces only 60 per cent of total food consumed. The UK is particularly reliant on fruit and vegetable imports, with 40 per cent coming from the EU.

CSA Network UK chair Robert Simpson said: “It’s one of the most radical ways that we can re-take control and ownership of our food system. CSA members know exactly where and how their food has been produced, unlike shopping in supermarkets.

“In the wake of Brexit, being part of a CSA farm and buying local, organic produce is likely to become even more popular as the price of imported food rises and it becomes harder for conventional farms to find seasonal workers.”

For details of Open Day events at more than 30 CSAs across the country go to <https://www.communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk/csa-network-uk-open-day/>

Or contact

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Notes:

What is the CSA Network UK?

We are the only organisation working solely to promote community supported agriculture across the UK. We are a co-operative that brings together CSA farms to connect, exchange their skills and knowledge, and promote a fairer model of food production.

What do we do?

- We promote CSA principles and projects
- We provide support and advice to members
- We represent CSAs at local and national level

Web: www.communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk

Email: csanetworkuk@gmail.com

Twitter: @CSANetwork

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