

SINGING TURKEYS

COMMUNITY SPONSORED AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE AT:
THE ECO-RANCH SUSTAINABLE LIVING EDUCATIONAL CENTER

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Welcome to the Singing Turkeys Community Sponsored Agricultural Cooperative! For this agreement, let's all call it the "CSA" for short!

We all know that food security is fast becoming an issue globally. Mono-culture and mega feed/growing "factories" are highly susceptible to disease and failures. However, agribusiness, as well as a few well-meaning citizens, have passed laws that virtually prohibit individual farmers from selling their fresh, local farm products to the general public for "health" reasons.

Farmers and the general public nationwide, have discovered that these laws do not apply to those who actually OWN the products, just to the outside SALE of these products. By becoming a part owner in the products, you are entitled to share in the myriad health benefits gleaned from local, all natural, open pollination, lovingly handled and prepared farm products..... WITHOUT "violating" the agribusiness restrictive legislation!

You are about to embark on a similar journey here at the Eco-Ranch, by becoming an owner of our many fine farm products! Your annual membership fee goes to purchasing the seeds, seedlings and animals, on your behalf, that will be grown and produced here. When it is time for you to take your "share" of the harvest, the cost of fertilizer, labor and feed will be calculated and due when you select your share of the harvest! But, should you wish to share in the labor by volunteering to process your share, your actual dollar cost can be reduced.

The annual membership fee will be due in the month of March each year, prior to the 31st. New members may join at any time, however the membership fee will remain \$25 and the next annual fee will be due the following March.

Here at the Eco-Ranch Sustainable Living Educational Center, we practice sustainable living, of course. However, we cannot be a certified **organic** farm, due primarily to the semi-annual infestations of the "Salt Cedar Beetle" (contact Texas A&M University for more information on this Big Bend insect plague).

Your vegetables will be grown both in aquaculture and soil environments with ONLY all natural fertilizers used, no synthetics. Your livestock animals will be fed commercial feeds, from SMALL, TEXAS-BASED feed mills, supplemented with your sprouted seeds, insects and native grasses. Processing and packaging for delivery of all products will be done by CSA members. Products will be raised year-around, seasonally.

You will be informed either by e-mail or via the CSA FACEBOOK page of the availability of products. You can then choose from what is available for harvest at that time and pick up directly from the Eco-Ranch, or schedule a delivery, generally on Friday. Your final payment

for the feed/fertilizer/labor will then be due on pick-up or delivery.

Should there be a crop failure, disease outbreak, natural disaster or act of war that affects the harvest, there will be no refund of annual membership fee. This is a risk we all must share as farmers and owners of the potential harvest. This is one of the primary reasons that we elected to collect the direct cost of raising the products, at harvest, instead of before, your potential loss is limited.

We may, due to the unrealistic approach the State of Texas takes toward independent farmers unable to contribute “generously” to re-election and lobbying funds, need to make adjustments to this agreement. At that time, members may cancel their membership if they find the changes unsatisfactory and received their membership fee refunded on a pro-rated basis.

We welcome you into our family and look forward to a long and bountiful experience and harvest! Please complete the form below, SIGN & DATE IT and return it to us via mail, in person, or electronically, along with your \$25 first annual membership fee. This fee can be made by check, in cash in person, or by PAYPAL, using our business e-mail of: **Robert@singingturkeys.com**

YOUR NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL (optional): _____

SIGNATURE

DATE

by signing, you understand that YOU are a part owner of ALL the farm products produced at the Eco-Ranch and agree to membership in the Singing Turkeys CSA cooperative.