

Hebenshausen Vegetable Collective (CSA) **Information for Current and Prospective Members**

We're thrilled that you're interested in joining (or are already part of) the Hebenshausen Vegetable Collective (Solawi Gemüsekollektiv Hebenshausen or just Gemüsekollektiv)! Below, you'll find essential details about how our CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture) operates, along with agreements and processes. Please read this carefully before deciding to become a member.

For further questions, feel free to reach out to us personally! You can also learn more about CSA principles and how we work on our website www.gemuesekollektiv.org or the national CSA platform www.solidarische-landwirtschaft.org if you are interested in CSAs in general.

CSA Shares and Contributions

It's important to understand that your CSA share is not a subscription box! Your membership contribution doesn't pay for the vegetables directly but instead supports the functioning of a whole farm. All members share the entire harvest—and the risks that come with agricultural production, such as losses due to drought, frost, or floods.

Your monthly contribution is determined by the overall costs of running the farm, not the quantity of vegetables. Contributions are based on our financial plan and the number of shares needed. Members submit three bids to determine their contribution. If the budget isn't covered with everyone's first bid, the second or third bid will apply. This bidding system ensures fairness, as each member determines their contribution based on their financial situation while collectively covering the budget.

Membership is a season-long commitment (April 2025 – March 2026). Mid-season cancellations are not possible, but in unexpected situations, we can help transfer your share to someone else, or you can find a replacement yourself. This commitment provides the farmers with security for the growing season.

A typical share is suitable for 1–3 people who cook regularly. The quantity and type of vegetables vary by season. There is a two-week delivery pause between Christmas and New Year, and in early spring, there may be a gap if stored crops run out before the new harvest begins. We strive to minimize this gap, but deliveries may be combined in February or March if yields are low.

Pickup Instructions

Vegetables are delivered weekly on Thursdays around 4 PM to designated pickup locations:

- Hebenshausen
- Groß Schneen
- Göttingen Geiststraße
- Göttingen Goßlerstraße
- Göttingen Felix-Klein-Straße

Pickup Guidelines:

- Collect your share as soon as possible (preferably Thursday) to ensure freshness, especially for leafy greens.
- A noticeboard at the pickup point will indicate how much of each vegetable is allocated per share. Please weigh or count your portion and bring your own bags.
- If you don't want or can't use a particular vegetable, place it in the "Tauschkiste"/"Give-away box" for others to take.
- Mark your name off on the provided list after picking up your share.
- Leftovers are available to everyone after Sunday at 6 PM.

Maintaining Pickup Spaces:

- The pickup locations should function largely in a self-organized manner.
- Keep the space tidy; sweep up if needed.
- Empty crates should be swapped with full crates on the floor.
Do not take green crates home—they need to remain in the collective storage rooms for harvesting and are expensive.

If You Can't Pick Up:

- Arrange for someone to pick up your share and ensure they are informed of the process.
- Alternatively, notify us early, and we'll exclude your share from that week's delivery (note: contributions remain unchanged).

Shared Pick-up Spaces:

The pickup locations are also used by the Fruit Solawiz, where you can get regional orchard fruits (www.obstsolawiz.wordpress.com).

Membership Fees and Payment

Membership contributions are withdrawn monthly on the second Monday of each month. Ensure sufficient funds are available to avoid a failed transaction fee of €5, which will be added to your next payment.

The CSA operates as a non-profit organization, meaning donations are tax-deductible (though this doesn't apply to membership fees).

Get Involved

We occasionally host workdays in spring, summer, and autumn where members can visit the farm, learn about the work, and help with projects. Participation is voluntary, but we always appreciate the extra hands!

If you have skills to contribute, such as IT expertise, bookkeeping, machinery maintenance, or photography, help with information desks and membership acquisition let us know! Every bit of support strengthens our collective 😊

Meetings and Events

1. **Season Kickoff (March):** Introduces the financial plan, explains contribution rounds, and provides a chance to meet the farmers and fellow members.
2. **Annual General Meeting (November):** Reflect on the year, discuss updates, and plan for the future.

Communication and Contact

You will receive weekly updates about the current harvest and some news from the field through our email distribution list. Email accessibility is a prerequisite for participating in the CSA. The organization only works if you stay informed about the key steps.

For questions, contact us at:

✉ kontakt@gemuesekollektiv.org

☎ 05504 222 97 98

Important Dates for 2025

- **First Delivery:** April 3, 2025
- **Last Delivery:** March 26, 2026
- **Holiday Break:** No deliveries on December 25, 2025, and January 1, 2026
- **Potential Biweekly Deliveries:** February and March 2026

We're excited to have you as part of the Hebenshausen Vegetable Collective! Together, we can support local farming and enjoy the rewards of fresh, sustainable produce.

