

## **Abbott Farms Herd Share Agreement 2022**

Welcome to the Abbott Farms goat milk herd share program! We want your herd share experience to be enjoyable both for you and for us, so before you sign on, please read through this document to learn the terms and conditions of joining the Abbott Farms herd share program. Additional information is available in our herd share fact sheet.

### **Overview**

It is illegal in the State of Michigan to sell raw milk, or even pasteurized milk from a non-Grade A dairy. It is also prohibitively expensive for a small farm to comply with Grade A dairy regulations; thus, we will never be able to sell our milk through conventional channels. However, it is legal for anyone to drink milk from their own animals. Our herd share program allows shareholders to purchase a share of our dairy goat herd, and then receive the milk produced by “their” goats.

### **Duration**

Because of our management methods, we have some goat milk available all year round, with peak production from April to October. We will accept new herd share customers at any time of the year provided we have adequate milk. Each shareholder will agree to purchase a set amount of milk per week during the peak season and will be given the option of getting a reduced amount of milk during the winter or taking several months off. The herd share contract is for a minimum of three months. After participating in the program for three months, shareholders will be able to continue on a month-to-month basis. Shareholders must give a month's notice before ending their herd share agreement.

### **Prices**

To keep things simple for our customers and ourselves, we simply charge \$8.00 per gallon. We will sell as little as a half gallon for \$4.00, or in some cases, even a quart for \$2.00.

### **Jars**

All milk will be distributed in glass jars. Shareholders are responsible for washing these jars and lids by hand with an unscented detergent and warm water. Jars should be stored and returned with the lids **off** to allow them to air out. Please contact us if you prefer to bring your own containers.

#### **Pick-up day and time**

Shareholders may select their preferred pick-up day and time; since goats produce a consistent amount of milk throughout the week, we prefer to have our shareholders come on different days to even out demand. Pickups will be Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; we do not sell milk or other farm products on Sundays. Please indicate your preferred day and a 2hour time slot in the space provided below.

### **Labor Shares**

All shareholders have the option to pay part or all of their fees with labor at Abbott Farms, at the rate of \$16/hr. Labor may include weeding and harvesting vegetables, milking goats, feeding poultry, or shoveling manure. Proper training must be conducted for all labor done at Abbott

Farms, and Abbott Farms is not responsible for any injuries that may be incurred while shareholders are working at the farm. Abbott Farms reserves the right to decide whether or not to allow each individual shareholder to trade labor.

### **Liability**

Abbott Farms is not liable for any injury or health problems that may result from drinking raw milk. By signing this agreement, shareholders acknowledge that they understand both the risks and benefits of consuming raw milk and are responsible for their own decisions.

### **Guarantee**

Abbott Farms guarantees to provide each shareholder with the specified quantity of fresh raw milk during the peak season and an agreed upon quantity during the off season. We guarantee that the milk will be fresh and clean when it leaves our farm. However, we are not responsible for anything that happens to the milk after it leaves our farm. Shareholders are responsible for storing milk properly in the refrigerator. Milk will naturally go sour after 1-2 weeks; please plan on purchasing the amount of milk appropriate for your household to use in a week's time.

*I have read and understood the above statements, and I agree to join the Abbott Farms herd share program by purchasing \_\_\_\_ gallons of milk per week, beginning on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_.*

*My preferred pick-up day is \_\_\_\_\_, and my preferred 2-hour time slot is \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_*

*By signing this form, I take full responsibility for my personal decision to consume raw milk and to purchase a share in the Abbott Farms goat herd. I will not hold Abbott Farms liable for any problems that may result from this decision. My deposit for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is included with this contract.*

Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Abbott Farms, 1386 108<sup>th</sup> Ave. Otsego, MI 49078. **Please make all checks payable to Caroline Abbott.** Call 269-692-2328 or email [scabbott@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scabbott@sbcglobal.net) for more information. Our website is [www.abbottssustainablefarms.com](http://www.abbottssustainablefarms.com).