



VIRSYLVIA FARM

TYLER AND AMELIA ESHLEMAN

(575)-586-5635

VIRSYLVIAFARM@GMAIL.COM

345 SUNSHINE VALLEY RD.

QUESTA, NM 87556

Milk Share Agreement

Our Dairy: Our dairy goats are exclusively Nigerian Dwarf Goats (NDG). They produce a smaller amount of milk than larger dairy breeds, but it is richer and sweeter than other goat milk due to a higher butterfat content. It can be used for cheeses and butter, too. All products are raw*. We do not pasteurize or separate the milk. We hope to someday offer butter and cream, but are currently at capacity between cheese sales and milk shares. Unlike other goat milk, NDG milk will separate naturally, and you can scoop/skim your own cream for personal use.

We strive to provide the healthiest products possible to you! We also hope that we can support other local producers. We are not certified organic because many local producers cannot go through the certification process themselves. We always look for the highest quality alfalfa and other feed that is spray-free, organic, and sustainably produced in order to support healthy land management practices at the local level. Feel free to let us know if you have any questions!

*Raw milk can contain certain dangerous bacteria. We do everything we can to follow strict food safety and health guidelines in our practices. We want you to be aware of concerns, and consume raw products at your own risk.

Receiving the Share: We offer a year-round pay-what-you-will/can farm stand right here on the farm. Inside of the garage, there is a room with a mini-fridge that has various products in it. There are often chicken eggs, goose eggs, 8 oz. jars of cheese, and sometimes other products. In addition to your share, we encourage you to feel free to get other food you want or need! There may be other folks' milk shares in the fridge, so please be sure to only take the milk that belongs to you. Unless something is labeled, it is available.

We offer two levels of milk share, a full-share ($\frac{1}{2}$ gallon) and a half-share (1 quart), on a weekly basis. Cost for shares is \$5/quart.

*During the winter, the uninsulated garage will sometimes freeze. This can result in cracked eggs or frozen milk. We try our best to only put products in the fridge on the day of pick-up, and bring it in after hours if it is not picked up. We will put it out the next day.

At this time, we are not offering deliveries for receiving your milk share or other products/produce. While we know that our farm is a little bit of a drive for some, we hope this gives you a chance to see where exactly your food is coming from, have some much-needed time with animals and in the beauty of northern NM, and to get to know your farmers (us!) more.

Pick-Up:

- ❖ We will work with you to determine a pick-up day that works best for you, and that allows us to ensure we will have enough milk ready for you at the time of pick-up. On that day, you may come by anytime within our open hours to pick up your share.
- ❖ Our farm is open from sunup to sundown. If you think you might be here outside of those hours, just let us know--it's usually not a problem!
- ❖ The gate is often closed. This is for added protection for our goats from predators. Please come on in! Feel free to open the gate and leave it open while you're here. We just ask that you close it behind you on the way out.
- ❖ **Jars.** Each share has three jars in rotation. As long as you bring the jars back, we will continue to sanitize them and fill them for your next pick. Please bring your jar back each week.

Late or No Pick-Up:

- ❖ If you know you will be late to pick up your share, or if you need to pick up your share on another day, please give us as much heads up as possible.
- ❖ If you don't pick up your share, we will continue to have your milk available for a few days. It is your responsibility to let us know of any changes to schedule or if you need to take a break for a week; however, if you're going to be away, we strongly encourage you to have a friend or family member pick up your share for you. Please just let us know if that's the case.

Milk Shortages:

- ❖ We try to budget our milk and not overextend our capacity. While it is our goal, on occasion it's possible we will not have enough milk for your share. This can be due to quite a number of factors (i.e. extreme weather changes, a kicked bucket, or breeding season).
- ❖ If for some reason we do not have your milk on a given day, we will let you know as soon as possible, and give you another day for pick-up.

Extra Milk:

- ❖ For milk share members, extra milk is available upon request. If you would like extra milk, please let us know and we will let you know if we have extra to provide. If we do, it will be labeled with your regular share. It is available at the same \$5/quart rate.

Payment:

- ❖ We aim to be as flexible as possible about payment for milk shares. We have some folks who prefer to pay-as-you-go and others who pay a monthly rate.

The cost is no different, we just want to work with you to determine what will be the best fit for your needs.

- ❖ We accept cash or payment through Venmo, CashApp, and PayPal. We do *not* accept checks at this time.
- ❖ Milk shares are a set price, but all other products and produce follow a pay-what-you-will/can honor system. There is a cash jar in the farm stand for you to pay with cash and make change.
- ❖ We strive to keep our work equity-focused, and therefore wish to include all of you as our community in ensuring we can collectively provide food to those who need it. If you would like to pay a little extra than the suggested price, that money goes directly to getting food to someone else who needs it. If you need food, no need to tell us, please just take what you need! We apologize that we are not currently able to accept EBT/SNAP.
- ❖ *Donations:* During the peak agricultural season, each week we donate a set percentage of farm revenue to BIPOC farms/nonprofits working to address structural barriers and inequities for BIPOC farmers. If you wish to donate, as well, we include links to do so directly on our social media, or you can give extra through your purchases!

Ending Milk Share: If you decide you would like to discontinue your share, simply let us know. We would, of course, appreciate if you found someone else to take over your share, but that is not a requirement. You may discontinue your share at any time. If you pay monthly, and cancel your share in the middle of the month, we will reimburse you for the remainder of that month.

Rules for Visiting the Farm: We love that we get to share our farm with you! We ask that you exercise caution, especially if young children are with you, to ensure you don't get hurt and have a good time. There are, at times, multiple families or farm workers living on the land. We ask that in an effort to respect our privacy, you stick to the agreed upon pick-up days and hours, and treat the property as you would your own.

- ❖ Enjoy your time here! We're excited for you to experience the farm and interact with where your food comes from!
- ❖ Always accompany your child/ren as they explore the farm. While we strive to keep the property maintained and free of hazards, we cannot prevent every single incident and ask that you remain aware of you and your child's surroundings.
- ❖ Do not cross any fences without permission. While all of our animals are friendly and sociable with humans, some animals are large and may act unpredictably.
- ❖ Be calm and respectful towards the animals. There are goats, dogs, cats, chickens, geese, and a donkey on the property.
- ❖ Don't feed any animals unless given permission. In the farm stand are treats for you to feed to the goats at any time. *Please do not feed the donkey, but she does love receiving head scratches.*
- ❖ You are allowed to bring your dog along, just keep them on a leash, out of any food processing areas, out of the vegetable fields, and keep in mind there are dogs living here that will probably bark at them!

Communication:

- ❖ We will communicate to all milk share members through email. If you prefer, we can communicate via text message or through various social media accounts.
- ❖ Due to farm work and full time jobs, we prefer these mediums instead of phone calls and will probably be more responsive, but if you need to reach us urgently, please feel free to give us a call and/or leave a voicemail.
- ❖ We want you to be open and honest with us about how your share is going, and we hope you'll let us know if/when you have questions or concerns.
- ❖ On occasion, milk might change in flavor. This could be because the does (female goats) are exposed to a buck (male goat), we have changed alfalfa/feed, or based on time of year or alfalfa cutting. We will try to notify you if we are expecting some type of change, but also encourage you to let us know if you're experiencing a noticeable difference. We can either pause your share or discuss other alternatives.

Agreement:

I, _____, understand and acknowledge the risks of consuming raw dairy products, and agree to not hold Virsylvania Farm responsible for any health concerns that may arise from my consumption of raw goat milk.

Choose a share:

- Full-Share (½ Gallon) once per week -- \$10/week, \$40/monthly
- Half-Share (1 Quart) once per week -- \$5/week, \$20/monthly

Select a day of the week:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday

Consumer

Date:

Owner/Operator, Virsylvania Farm

Date: