

Great Lakes CSA Conference 2008

Using Volunteers

*Session Presentation by
Martha Laing
Orchard Hill Farm*

Working Shares

- 42% of our shares in 2008 were working shares

Why do we have them?

- Help with the harvest
- Saves us a great deal of time
- Frees us to do other jobs
- Picking labour intensive crops – beans, strawberries, peas, raspberries
- Washing vegetables for pick-ups
- Get to know us and visa versa
- They are often our most committed members
- Gives them a better idea of what is involved in producing their food

Why do people sign up?

- Like the involvement at the farm
- Feel more connected
- Enjoy coming to the farm and harvesting their food
- Gives children a chance to see how things grow
- Get to know us and apprentices better
- Gives them a break on the price
- Feel appreciated for their help

What kind of a break in the priced do they get?

- \$35 off the price of a share for 5 hours of work
- Sign up for 2 – 2 ½ hour slots on our calendar for working shares
- The evening before the pick-up or the morning of
- Many come for more than their allotted time

Work Bees - Bunkhouse

- Timber frame raising
- Straw bale wall building
- Mudding of straw bales
- Many of the CSA members came to help out on several days with the Work Bees

