

Corner for Small Change – January 2007

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Psalm 24:1

What have you done for the Lord's earth lately? Here is a small suggestion for the month of February:

Support Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). A movement has developed in the past several years that emphasizes the importance of community and social and environmental responsibility in regards to our food economy. A key element in this movement is the support of a strong regional food system that preserves ecosystems, reduces pollution, promotes social justice and invigorates rural and urban economies.

Joining Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is one of many ways that you can work to support this idea. A CSA provides a mutually beneficial relationship between a farm and a community of supporters. The community supports the farmers needs by financially covering a farm's yearly operating budget by purchasing a share of the season's harvest. And the farmer provides their members with fresh, nutritious organic food - harvested at their peak of ripeness, flavor and vitamin and mineral content. This kind of community support allows a farmer to devote their energies to conscientious and sustainable farming practices. Becoming a member creates a responsible relationship between people and the food they eat, the land on which it grows and those who grow it.

There are several CSA's available locally; go to www.localharvest.org to find options. One that is fairly close (in Coatesville) and convenient is Vollmecke Orchards. They provide a weekly supply of produce from (roughly) June through November that may be picked up at the farm or at Paoli Presbyterian Church. This farm usually aims to complete their membership list by March, so contact them soon if you are interested by going to www.csachestercounty.com or sending an email to vollmeckecsa@hotmail.com.