

Robyn Van En was the foremost pioneer of the community supported agriculture (CSA) movement in North America and was dedicated to establishing and supporting CSA programs in the United States. Through her tireless, creative and effective leadership, the CSA concept – which was introduced at Van En's Indian Line Farm in South Egremont, Mass., in 1985 – quickly spread across the nation.

Van En was also a popular and effective speaker, organizer, educator and advocate for sustainable farming and food systems. Through her life and example, she provided hope and encouragement to farmers across the nation.



Robyn Van En

The Robyn Van En Center for CSA Resources

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**For Community
Supported Agriculture**



**The Fulton Center for Sustainable Living
Wilson College**

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)?

The term “community supported agriculture” (CSA) describes a mutually beneficial partnership between a farmer and the people who consume the food he or she produces. The partnership is based on an annual commitment to one another that ensures the survival of local agriculture today and for future generations.

Members of the community agree to purchase a “share” of the farm’s anticipated harvest in advance at an agreed-upon price. Participating CSA families and individuals receive the highest-quality food possible, grown without chemicals and picked fresh from the garden.

CSA benefits producers as well as consumers. Consumers receive a variety of fresh, usually organic, food products on a weekly basis and farmers receive fair and guaranteed compensation for their efforts. Together they become partners in the production, distribution and consumption of locally grown food.



THE ROBYN VAN EN CENTER

The Robyn Van En Center (RVEC) is a nonprofit organization housed at the Fulton Center for Sustainable Living at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pa. RVEC was established to continue the vision of Robyn Van En, a pioneer of the CSA movement in North America. What she started as a regional effort to support CSA in the Northeast has expanded and become a growing national movement.

RVEC was created at Wilson College in 1998 and in spring 2001, the center assumed management of the national database of CSA farms from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The database can be found at the RVEC Web site, www.wilson.edu/csacenter. CSA farmers are urged to take advantage of the opportunity to list themselves on the Web site, which has become extremely popular with consumers and is featured frequently in national publications.

HOW CAN YOU HELP MAKE SURE THE RVEC AND THE CSA MOVEMENT CONTINUE TO GROW AND THRIVE?

- Help keep the database up to date.
- Donate to help support these valuable services. RVEC is currently supported by grants, donations and the sale of publications, but the center’s goal is to be financially self-sustaining. Your support is important.
- Spread the word about CSA.

RVEC RESOURCES

- Web-based National CSA Farm Directory.
- Technical assistance and support services.
- Mail-order publications – manuals, brochures, resource lists and more.
- Resource center and library housed at the college: CSA-related books, articles, research projects and other relevant materials.
- Links to other CSA-affiliated organizations.

In addition, the RVEC provides:

- Answers to inquiries from across the nation and around the world.
- Outreach and publicity about CSA.

