

Agricultural Surplus– How to Get Involved

FOR FARMERS

Second Harvest Heartland's [Harvest to Home](#) program works closely with farmers throughout Minnesota to efficiently and effectively collect excess produce to provide locally grown, farm fresh food to our neighbors in need.

Watch for donation opportunities, share information with your associates and vendors or participate by doing any of the following:

- Surplus produce: If you find yourself with extra vegetables or fruit that you are unable to sell or won't be able to use, consider donating them.
- Less-than-perfect produce: Donate less-than-ideal food that is still perfectly edible to our neighbors in need.
- Land: Dedicate extra land to grow fresh food for food banks.

While donations of all types of produce are accepted, there is particular need for heartier fresh foods that last longer, such as:

- Potatoes (Bulk totes & #2s)
- Onions
- Carrots
- Dry Edible Beans
- Apples

Donation Facts

- No donation is too large. The Harvest to Home program accepts bulk shipments and some food banks may be willing to pick it up from your location.
- No donation is too small. You can be connected directly with an agency that will accept your donation.
- Fresh produce is accepted. The Harvest to Home distribution network can respond quickly to capture your donation.
- Donations made in good faith are protected from liability by the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act.

To get involved, simply call toll free to 877-547-0245 or email produce@2harvest.org

Statewide Food Bank Contacts for Bulk Produce Donations

Channel One, Inc., Rochester

www.channel-one.org
Vince McCoy
507-424-1722
vincemccoy@channel-one.org

Emergency Foodshelf Network

www.emergencyfoodshelf.org
Kelvin Oscarson
763-450-3875

Great Plains Food Bank, Fargo-Moorhead

www.lssnd.org/greatplainsfoodbank
Steve Sellent
701-476-9104
ssellent@lssnd.org

Hope for the City

www.hopeforthecity.net
Paul Gifford
612-282-7474

North Country Food Bank, Crookston

www.northcountryfoodbank.org
Susie Novak
218-281-7356
susie@northcountryfoodbank.org

Second Harvest Heartland, Twin Cities, Mankato, St. Cloud

www.2harvest.org
Tony Mans
651-209-7956
tmans@2harvest.org
or
Mary Beth Dickey
Toll Free at 877-547-0245

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, Grand Rapids

www.secondharvestncfb.com
Justin Linnell
218-326-4420
justin@secondharvestncfb.com

Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank, Duluth

www.northernlakesfoodbank.org
Shaye Moris
218-727-5633, ext. 113
shaye@northernlakesfoodbank.org

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FOR INDIVIDUALS

- Consider participating in the national 'grow a row' concept.
- Volunteer or organize volunteers for gardening, harvesting and also coordinating food pick-up or food deliveries of fresh produce.
- Subscribing to community-supported agriculture (CSA)? Consider donating a portion of the produce to a food shelf. Establish the partnership in advance so you're ready when the food is fresh.
- Advocate by encouraging local farmers' markets or other places you buy produce to donate surplus to those in need. Help identify nearby food shelves/pantries.
- Offer to help with deliveries of surplus produce.

[Plant a Row for the Hungry](#) is a nationwide initiative that encourages gardeners to grow a little extra and donate this fresh and nutritious produce to local hunger-relief organizations.

It's easier than you might think. A single cucumber plant can yield up to 15-20 cucumbers. A single bell pepper plant can yield 6-8 peppers. Imagine how much you can help by planting an entire row in your garden.

Plants that are perfect for donation include:

- Carrots
- Radishes
- Summer Squash
- Green Beans
- Winter Squash
- Tomatoes
- Cucumbers
- Peppers
- Onions
- Potatoes
- Beets

Most food shelves directly accept donations of fresh produce. To find the nearest food shelf call 651.291.0211 or go to www.hungerfreemn.org/get-involved-give-where-you-live. A national resource for matching growers with food shelves is Ample Harvest (www.ampleharvest.org).

Information about [Harvest to Home](#) and [Plant a Row for the Hungry](#) provided by Second Harvest Heartland.

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FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Consider donating land and/or establishing community gardens for specific local food shelf/food pantry deliveries. Identify volunteers for planting, tending, harvesting and food deliveries.
- Engage students in farm-to-market concept and participation.
- Organize volunteers at harvest time for apples or other crops where individuals can 'pick.'
- Incorporate fresh produce and agricultural surplus into overall food support programs that have previously focused on dry food pick-up.
- Provide tips/handouts/classes about cooking/eating healthy foods.

FOR SEED COMPANIES AND PROCESSORS

- Consider donations to growers/food banks that can best distribute resources to those in need.
- Establish partnerships with food banks early in the crop year.

FOR NURSERIES AND GREENHOUSES

- Consider donations of "longs" (excess starter plants), soil amending material or seeds.
- Hold a produce drive and offer discounts to customers who bring in produce to donate to your local food shelf.

FOR FOOD SHELVES

- Consider registering with the website ampleharvest.org to make it easier for growers with extra produce to find you.