

Gleaning

Reducing Farm-Level Food Loss to Feed Hungry Neighbors

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Society of St. Andrew
endhunger.org

About the Society of St. Andrew

- Mission: The Society of St. Andrew brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.
- Faith-based, begun in 1979, centered on the ideas that no one in the US, the richest country in the world, should have to go hungry; and that, while even one person in this country does not have enough to eat, there is no excuse for throwing away or wasting healthy, farm-fresh food.
- Committed to a grassroots, neighbor-helping-neighbor model of food recovery and distribution, where fresh produce is harvested “just in time” to meet community-based need, and where the food travels the shortest possible distance for distribution.
- SoSA tailors solutions for farmers, growers, and packing houses, recovering food in the way that disrupts their operations least and doing whatever we can to improve their bottom line.

About farm-level food waste

- Commodity pricing standards
- Sale contract requirements
- Sale contracts
- Market price
- Labor or equipment issues
- Harvest timing
- Harvest volume
- Weather issues
- Packaging issues
- Transportation issues
- Rejection at destination

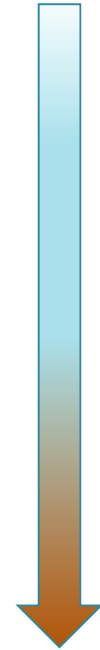
What is
gleaning?



Forms gleaning takes today

- Backyards and public/private lands
- Field or orchard
- Farm packing house pickups of culls or gradeouts
- Farmers markets
- Large load salvage | “Crop drops”
- Grocery stores
- Restaurant / institution / catering

- Community gardens & food forests



Backyards,
private or
public lands



Field or
orchard



Packing house
pickups of culls
or gradeouts



Farmers markets



Large load
salvage / crop
drops



Components of a gleaning program

- Identified source of food
- Field supervisor/farm liaison
- Volunteers
- Bins, boxes, bags; possibly tools
- Transportation plan
- Distribution plan
- Recordkeeping system
- Follow up plan

Potential liability issues to address

- Farmers
- Volunteers
- Gleaning Organization
- Receiving agencies

Benefits for
the grower



Core
philosophy for
successful
gleaning

It should never
be harder (or more expensive)
for a grower to donate food
than to throw it away.

Getting started

Part A

- Check to see if there is a gleaning organization already at work in your area—if so, work with them!
- Be sure systems and plans are in place. Be ready to go when you hear the words “Come on out!” Window for gleaning and distribution is very small.
- Know your limits. Don’t over-promise or under-perform. Produce volumes may be VERY different from prepared food volumes!

Getting Started

Part B

- Find farmers—farmers markets, word of mouth, county ag extension agents. Use the USDA Ag Census, but see above.
- Look for food! Greenways, parks, businesses, etc.
- Concentrate on building relationships. Start small.
- Be as serious about the distribution side of the work as you are about the acquisition side. Nothing that you glean should go to waste.

Phrasing it for
growers

When you hear yourself saying,
“It’s a shame this has to go to waste,”
that’s when you call us.

When you're neck deep in eggplants

- Call the Society of St. Andrew. 800-333-4597.
Ask for Meg (large loads) or Bill (field gleaning)
- We can help you out quickly with suggestions and good advice, based on our 35+ years experience gleaning and working with farmers and feeding agencies.
- Even if we don't have an active gleaning operation in your area, we can help you sort out the situation and make sure the food is rescued and shared.
- We have LOADS of experience with moving large-volume loads quickly from a farm or other point of rejection to agencies where the food can be offloaded immediately for distribution.
- We have connections for food distribution in 48 states.



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GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY