**Farm to Food Bank Produce Donation Fact Sheet**

The Farm To Food Bank Produce Program engages a network of farms across Southeast Missouri in a partnership to provide hungry Southeast Missourians with fresh, local produce. Through produce donations, these farms help supply good, nutritious food to food-insecure communities across Southeast Missouri. In 2016, over 1.5 million pounds was distributed by this program, directly impacting thousands of Southeast Missourians each week.

Southeast Missouri Food Bank (SEMO Food Bank) depends upon the generosity of the farming industry and devotes our resources to recovering excess products from fruit and vegetable growers. You Can Help!

**Benefits of Produce Donation**

Donating food creates many benefits for your business and our community.

- Reduce storage and disposal fees
- Internal Revenue Code 170(e)(3) provides enhanced tax deductions to businesses
- **Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Tax Credits** - Farmers donating at least $500 (fair market value) or more worth of retail packaged produce, receive **50% of the donation back to put towards Missouri state taxes.**
- Enhance inventory control by reducing hard-to-move inventory and unsaleables
- Boost employee morale and foster community goodwill
- Put products to good use instead of to waste

In Southeast Missouri, 1 in 4 children is food insecure. Families were asked to identify foods they most want, but usually do not get.

- 66% of families identified fresh fruits and vegetables.

For families served by SEMO Food Bank, this might be more of a wish list, but we’re working to change that. You can help!

**Accepted Products**

We are able to accept all types of produce.

- **Excess**
- **Nearly overripe**
- **Unsalable**
- **Distressed**
- **Processed**
- **Blemished**
- **Short coded**
- **Misshapen**
- **Number 2 grade produce (perfectly edible, but not sellable at retail)**

**Who Benefits from Food Donations?**

Produce donation directly support mobile distributions. Accessing food is challenging, especially for families considered part of the “working poor”. The majority of food pantries are open Monday through Friday 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. To respond to this need, mobile produce distributions take place after 5:00 PM during the work week and on Saturdays, increasing families’ ability to access nutritious food and provide for their families.

**Donor Protection**

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act protects citizens and businesses in good faith who donate food or grocery products to a nonprofit organization for distribution to people in need.

**Quick and Professional Response**

We can respond quickly, usually by the next business day. Pallet exchange can be provided. We have a fleet of dock high, refrigerated vehicles and full-time drivers. Our warehouse has a 1315 pallet capacity, with a 108 pallet drive-in freezer and 136 pallet drive-in coolers. Thousands of community volunteers inspect, sort, label, pack and repack donations.

**Safe Food Handling**

Your food donation is in good hands. We have over thirty one years of safe food handling experience. Food Bank staff and all certified member agencies are trained in safe food handling.

**Call SEMO Food Bank today to schedule a pick-up! 573-471-1818 Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm**


P.O. Box 190 | 600 State Highway H | Sikeston, MO 63801

573.471.1818 t | 573.471.3659 f | 1.855.703.FOOD (3663)

www.semofoodbank.org