

Starting a Crop Collection Program in Your County

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What is Gleaning?

- Gleaning is act of collecting leftover produce from farms and gardens where it would otherwise go to waste.
- This produce is then donated to local food pantries for distribution to those in need of it.

Why You Should Glean

According to the United States Department of Agriculture 30-40 percent of the food supply is wasted.

In 2012, America produced 35 Million tons of food waste according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Why You Should Glean

- Ohio Ranks 3rd in the Nation for families that are food insecure.
- 7.5 percent of Ohio households were considered on the lower end of food insecurity in 2014.

According to Feeding American in 2014 food insecurity percentages were:

Madison -13.6%
Knox – 14.0%
Licking- 13.3%
Franklin- 17.9%
Delaware- 9.0%

Clark- 16.3%
Champaign- 13.2%
Pickaway- 13.5%
Fayette- 16.1%
Union – 11.2%

Why You Should Glean



Vital Resource

- Provides a fresh food source to nonprofits.

Community Focused

- Utilize volunteers from numerous community groups.
- Fighting the local hunger problem.
- Support local growers



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Food Recovery Hierarchy

Most Preferred

Source Reduction & Reuse

Reduce the volume of surplus food generated

Feed Hungry People

Donate extra foods to food banks, soup kitchens and shelters

Feed Animals

Divert food scraps to animal feed

Industrial uses

Provide waste oils for rendering and fuel conversion and food scraps for digestion to recover energy

Composting

Create a nutrient-rich soil amendment

Landfill / Incineration

Last resort to disposal

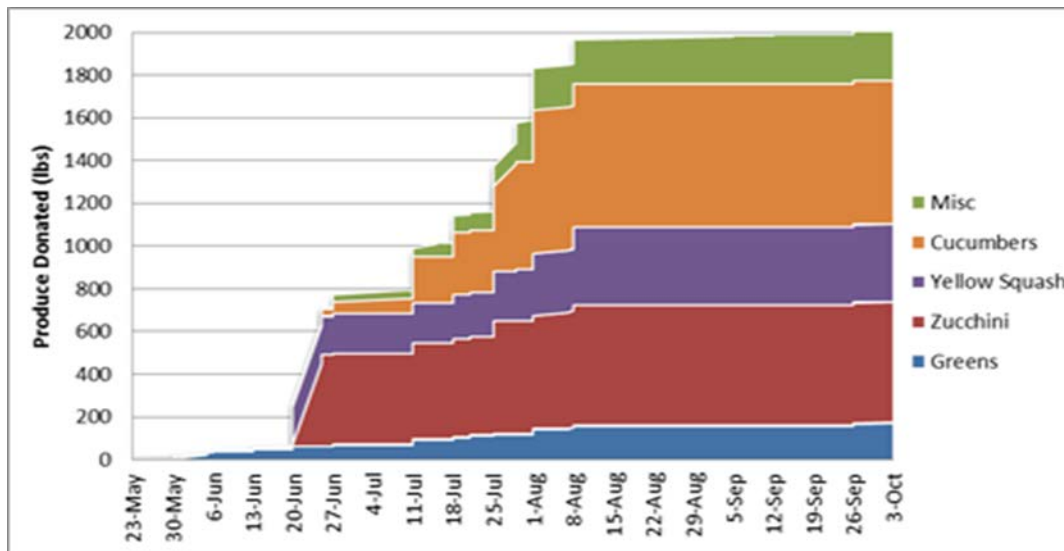
Least Preferred

Knox County Food Waste

- Started in the winter of 2014.
 - Idea that Kenyon College Intern Kayla Arnold had.
 - Gleaning was identified through the Building A Hunger Movement as a need within the Knox County in 2014.
- Implemented in the summer of 2015.
 - 3 people working on the project
 - Intern, Kayla Arnold
 - OSU Extension Volunteer, Paul Higgins
 - OSU Extension Educator, Sabrina Schirtzinger
- The Food Waste Program has now been taken on a goal of the Knox County Health Departments Creating Healthy Communities Coalition.

Knox County Food Waste

- Gleaning occurred from Late May- Mid October 2015.
- Gleaned 3,524 pounds of produce.
- 991 pounds came from the Saturday Farmers Market.
- 2,245 pounds donated from local farmers and auctions.
- According to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank reporting system 1,324 families received the fresh produce.
 - 610 families had minors in their family.



Knox County Food Waste

Gleaning occurred from May- December 2016.

Gleaned 1,955 pounds of produce.

1,067 pounds came from the Saturday Farmers Market.

888 pounds donated from local farmers and auctions.

According to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank reporting system 1,104 families received the fresh produce.

-437 families had minors in their family.

** Note the lower numbers. No coordinator.

Knox County Food Waste

2017- Created a functional coordinating effort.

1,627 pounds as of Saturday, September 16, 2017



Tips For Success



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Tips for Success

- Spread the Word
- Network
- Find, Train and Keep Volunteers
- Stay Organized
- Agency Drop Offs
- Supplies
 - Where to find them.



Photo Source: feedbackglobal.org



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Spread the Word

Tell Everyone

- Speak to community groups
 1. Kiwanis
 2. Exchange Club
 3. Food for the Hungry
- Often times community groups can be a source of volunteerism and resources.
 - Church Groups
 - Boy and Girl Scouts
 - Local Services
 - Area College Students
- Informational booth at local Farmers Markets
 - Growers can donate directly to you on market days.



Where Do You Start?

Marketing Materials

- Give your program a name
Something easy, crisp and gets to the point
Examples of groups already formed: Food Forward, Donation Station, Farm to Pantry, The Harvest Club, Senior Gleaners. Urban Harvesting Program, Food Rescue and Backyard Bounty.
- Brochures
Item that can be visually appealing to all ages and groups
- Flyers
- Posters
Great to hang in businesses
- Magnets
- Keep the information generic on the marketing items.



Community Gleaning Project

Don't Let Good Fruit Go Bad!

Too much fruit? Too many zucchinis? Volunteers can come harvest your fruit and deliver it to CAN's food bank and other venues for distribution to families in need of fresh, healthy food.

Call: Connor 464-9190
or 4-H 464-4711
Email:
gleaning@canbless.org

4-H **Community Assistance Network**
Together We CAN Grow!

Photo Source: growingtables.blogspot.com

Donate Fresh Produce to Reduce Food Waste: Three Easy Ways



Drop Sites

1. **OSU Extension** (M-F, 8 to 5)
160 Columbus Road, Mount
Vernon, Phone: 740-397-0401

2. **Mount Vernon Interchurch** (M-
F, 9 to 4)
306 West Gambier Street, Mount
Vernon, Phone: 740-397-4825

Best For

Gardeners, farmers, grocery
stores

Gleaners

A network of volunteers that will
go into the community and har-
vest produce that would other-
wise go to waste.

schirtzinger.55@osu.edu
740-397-0401

Best For

Gardeners, farmers, and fruit
tree growers that are unable to
harvest.

Pick Up

Volunteers that will transport
food from where it would other-
wise go to waste to where it is
needed.

schirtzinger.55@osu.edu
740-397-0401

Best For

Farms, farmers markets, gro-
cery stores.

Knox County Food Waste Initiative (Gleaning) has col-
lected 5,479 pounds of produce since 2015, then donat-
ed the produce to those considered Food Insecure.



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Where Do You Start?

Social Media

Great way to stay connected

Puts pictures to the progress.

Great way to “connect” with Millennials

Radio

Local Stations

Get volunteers/coordinator to talk on the radio

Once to twice a month

Report the impact

Newspaper

Advertise your volunteer opportunity



Where Do You Start?

Network

Build Relationships

- Farmers Markets
 - Someone at the farmers market to collect any leftovers
- Growers
 - Visit growers and tell them about the program
- Community Gardens
 - Help organizers set up a donation schedule.



Photo Source: pixabay.com

Where Do Your Start?

Network

- Who could potentially help you and in what capacity?
 - Drop off sites.
 - Transportation for non driving gleaners.
 - Transporting the gleaned produced.

- Set up a meeting and talk to different groups with the goal of finding out how each group could benefit one another.
 - Salvation Army
 - United Way
 - Interchurch Social Services
 - Job and Family Services
 - Head Start
 - Colleges and University student organizations
 - Area Business



Photo Source: harvesthope.org



Convincing Potential Donors

- Go to the farm, farmers markets, farm stand, where the produce and people are.
- Amish communities may be harder, as they tend to be resourceful in turning product into another.
- During the winter months.
 Hold informational meetings.

Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act

- 1996 Congress passed the Good Samaritan Act
- This law protects good faith donors from civil and criminal liability, should the product later cause harm to its recipient.
- Title: Consumer goods or perishable food; donation to certain nonprofit groups; limited liability. *This law protects a person who donates perishable food or consumer goods to an agency, and an agency that distributes such donated food or goods, from liability that allegedly arises because those foods or goods are not fit for human consumption or use,* except in cases of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

Photo Source: farmprogress.com



Ohio Revised Code 2305.37



Photo Source: gridphilly.com

Approaching Businesses

- Economically Unfriendly
- Find it too expensive to box the product, store the product and transport the product.
- Coordinate pick-ups

Tax Exempt

- Produce donated is tax exempt.
- Give receipts or track produce and coordinate with Mid-Ohio Food Bank to get the tax exempt receipts.

Mid- Ohio Food Bank

- Excellent to partner and work with.
- Will assist with the tax exempt portion of donations. If you are using one of their affiliated agencies.



Easy Process

- Contacting the coordinator needs to be a “one step” process.
- Simply, if you have produce call this number.
- If you want to drop off produce take it here.

Grower Provides

- When gleaners arrive what do you expect the grower to provide?
- Water Source
- Bins for collecting
- Wheel barrel, wagons, carts
- A Gator

Recruiting Volunteers

Finding Volunteers

- This is where networking is important
- Key community leaders will be able to help source volunteers

Retired Teachers

School Groups

Church Groups

College Students

Keeping Volunteers

- Give them a reason to continue
 - Allow them to take a portion of the bounty
 - Instant contribution
- Volunteer on their time.
- Communicate with the volunteers in ways that they prefer.
 - Phone call, email, text



Photo Source: clipartkid.com

Training Volunteers

Training

- Volunteer training topics
- In Knox County we feel that training is vital to the success of our gleaning program.
- We strive to teach our volunteers to leave only your foot prints in the fields. As we want the growers to have a positive experience and continue to call for gleaning.

Coming Prepared

- Wear appropriate clothing
- No jewelry
- No Sandals
- Bring a water bottle
- Where do the volunteers get the bins, vehicle etc.

Sanitation

- Clean bins
- No gleaning when ill or have open cuts
- Rinse your shoes before you begin
- Wash your hands when you return to “Home Base”



Photo Source: pixabay.com

Quality, Picking and Handling

- Scared and deformed produce
- Rotten with a lot of bugs
- Manure in the field.

Respect the Produce

- We strive to only leave a foot print.
- Watch where you are walking.
- Be gentle with the plants.

Biosecurity

- Be mindful of where you have worn your shoes before coming to the fields.
- No pruning tools are permitted
- If tools need to be used the grower is encouraged to supply them – for example digging potatoes
- This is to help avoid spreading disease on uncleaned tools from farm to farm.

Training Volunteers

Cleaning Produce

- Once you have returned to “Home Base” you will clean the produce.
- What will your process for cleaning the produce look like.

Our Process

1. Take all dirty produce out of the bins and clean the bins
 2. Commercial kitchen to use. 3 sink system
 3. Wash in one sink and rinse in the other 2 sinks.
 4. Dry on the counters then place back into the bins
- The cleaning process is clearly posted above the sinks in the kitchen.
 - We are fortunate that we do not have to share the kitchen with another group.

The When and Where of Training

Conducting Training

- Ideally- one time and done
- Reality- train multiple times
- Go to the people and train them
- Bring the people to the “Home Base”
Location where gleaning is housed out of.



GLEANNING

Where to Next?

- You just gleaned 750 pounds of sweet corn and take it to interchurch.
- They were not expecting this! Now what!?
- *Initially*
 - Talk to the directors or those closest to the food distribution in your community.
 - What are their needs?
 - How do they determine who gets what, and how do they get it there?
 - Who are the organizations?

Hot Meals	Touch Pointe
Interchurch	The Main Place
Salvation Army	Winter Sanctuary
- *Know the organizations*
 - What days do they not take food.
 - Hours of operation
 - Reaching individuals after hours.
 - Where do you clean the produce?

Tracking Produce

- Excel is great for tracking produce quantities and producers

Weighing

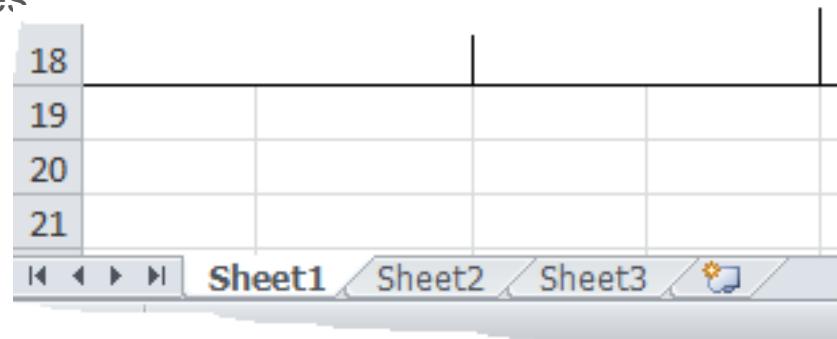
- At drop off, or at Home Base
- Mobile Scales

Will you need to provide your own scales?

- One person during each scheduled gleaning should be in charge of gleaning.

Volunteer List

- Phone Numbers
- Availability
- Preferred Duties



This and That

Where is your “Home Base?”

Networking is important again!

Where will your gleaning project be housed?

Key Community Leaders may know an organization with a kitchen or area that you could use periodically.

Supplies

Collapsible Bins

-Kroger and Food Distributions

Buckets

-Kenyon College AVI Food System

Towels

-Hotels

Trash bags

-Donated through Interchurch

Sponsors

Do you want or need sponsors?

Response Times

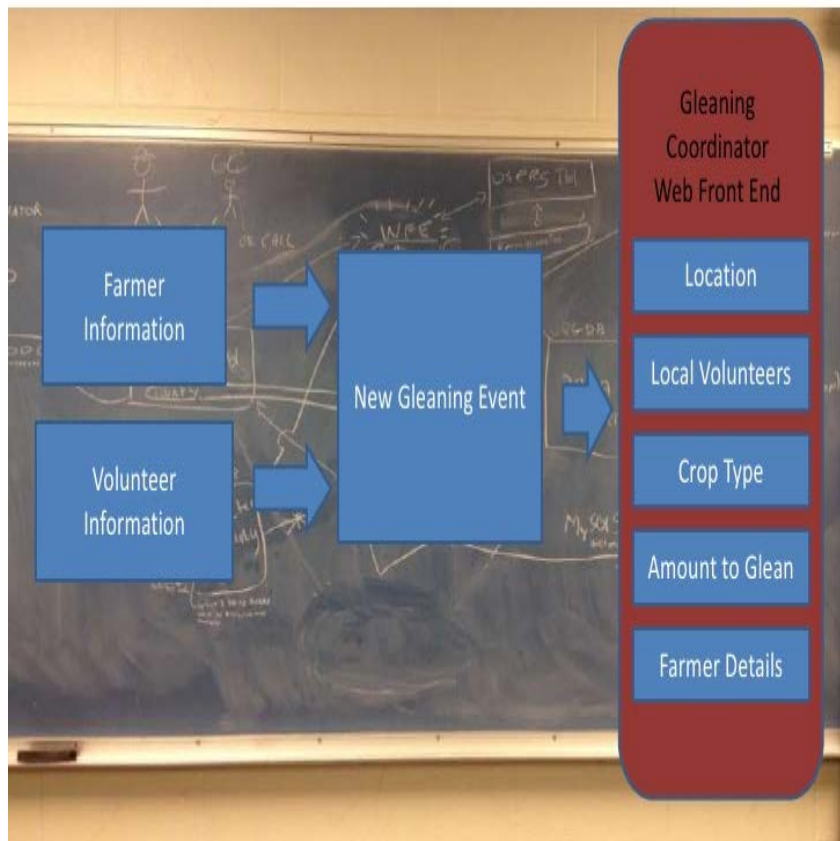
How long do you wait for gleaners to agree to help

What is the time frame you will be telling producers to expect gleaning to occur.



Photo Source: foodpantrygardens.org

Data Flow



Dedicated Coordinator

- Must for Success!

The “Face” of Gleaning

- Not necessarily one person.
- Schedules the gleaning and gleaners.
- Presences at Farmers Market for donations
- Keeps volunteer availability updated quarterly
- Correspondences

Mock Gleaning Walk Through

A producer calls...

- Ensure the producer that a team of individuals will be coming out with in the next 48 hours(predetermined hours of response)
 - Obtain the:
 1. Site address
 2. Variety of produce to be gleaned
 3. Approximate quantity
 4. Will the gleaner have access to water – or any other questions that you have
 5. Special instructions
- The coordinator uses the volunteer spread sheet to determine who is available with the next 48 hours.
- Makes the contact with the volunteers stating they have 4 hours (predetermined hours of response) to respond to a gleaning project on September 23rd at 9am.
 - Date and times is dependent on the availability of volunteers within the 48 hour time frame
 - Once they agree to volunteer they will be give the location for gleaning, producers name, and Gleaning Leader

Mock Gleaning Walk Through



- Make sure to pick someone who has indicated that they are interested in being a Gleaning Leader when you are finding volunteers.
 - Leaders are in charge of the day.
 - Making sure the bins get to the site
 - Gleaning is done safely and orderly
 - Produce gets washed
 - Produce is weighed and recorded
 - Produce is delivered to the location indicated by the coordinator.

Mock Gleaning Walk Through



- Depending on the size of the project will determine how many gleaners are needed.
- Once volunteers are secured the coordinator need to:
 1. Call the producer and let them know when the gleaners will be arriving.
 2. Secure a drop off location for the produce
 3. Communicate drop off location with the gleaning leader.
 4. Communicate with the kitchen location that gleaning will be occurring
- Coordinator will need to obtain the recorded weigh of produce from the predetermined method of recording.
 - Our method- weights will be written on a spread sheet in the cleaning kitchen.

Final Thought

Gleaning Club

Treat gleaning as a club

Function with rules, expectations and goals.

Create levels of commitment.

Which “ER” are you?

Gleaner

Promoter

Leader

Gleaning Programs are a continual work in progress!



Photo Source: twitter.com

Dirty Hands and Dedicated Hearts- Knox County Gleaning

Questions ?

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