



Donating Crops to the Food Share

In 1987, Marion Polk Food Share was formed as an independent nonprofit to help lead the fight to end hunger in Marion and Polk counties. Today, the Food Share collects and distributes food to a network of more than 100 partner-agencies. Support from the community makes it possible for the Food Share to distribute food to meal sites, food pantries, foster homes, low-income day care centers, shelters, and senior housing sites across the Mid-Valley.

This month, as with every month, more than 55,000 people – including 18,000 children – will access emergency food through the Marion Polk Food Share partner network. This food may be a hot meal served at a shelter, a free community meal served at a church, or an emergency food box from a food pantry. This nutritious food will help children and adults learn, work and thrive.

Marion Polk Food Share's service area is also home to one of the most agriculturally abundant regions in Oregon. Farmers throughout Marion and Polk counties donate fresh and locally grown foods that help feed our hungry neighbors.

Contact

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Frequently Asked Questions

What type of crops should I grow for the Food Share?

We accept all types of edible crops. Preferred crops include, but are not limited to, tree fruits, berries, melons, grapes, corn, tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, tree nuts and wheat.

How do I get my donation to Marion Polk Food Share?

Marion Polk Food Share can accept donations small and large, and there is certainly no amount of fresh produce too small to donate. We'll make sure your produce gets to an individual or family in need. Donations can be dropped off at the Food Share. For donations larger than one or more pallets or bulk bins, please call to arrange a dock time. Open delivery times are 9am to 4pm. Depending on the size and location of your donation, the Food Share may also be able to pick it up.

I have crops leftover in my field that I want to donate, but do not have the capacity and/or funds to harvest it. Can I still donate these crops?

Yes! Salem Harvest is a non-profit organization that connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteer pickers to harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. Up to half of the produce that is harvested is given to the Marion Polk Food Share network for emergency distribution. If you have fresh produce but need assistance harvesting it, we recommend that you contact Salem Harvest. Contact information for Salem Harvest can be found at www.salemharvest.org.

Is my donation eligible for a tax credit or deduction?

Yes, your donation is eligible for a federal tax deduction and some donations qualify for Oregon's Crop Donation Tax Credit. All donors receive a receipt. For more information, ask your tax professional or visit marionpolkfoodshare.org/food-industry-donors.

What are your food safety practices?

Your company takes food safety seriously, and so does the Food Share. The Food Share trains and monitors all member agencies to ensure compliance with all applicable safe food handling practices and policies. We are a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) inspected facility.

Are donors protected from litigation?

Companies that donate healthy, sound food to nonprofit organizations are protected from criminal and civil liability under the Good Samaritan Act. The protection is standardized across all 50 states.