

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL GLEANING FAQs

What is gleaning?

Gleaning is the simple task of collecting excess fruits and vegetables from farms and distributing that produce to community organizations serving those in need.

Why do farmers have leftover produce in their fields?

Some reasons for excess produce include bumper crops, "ugly" produce, end-of-season surplus, too many crops ripening at the same time, and unstable markets.

Where does the gleaned food go after it is collected?

It is sent to food pantries, soup kitchens, and low-income housing units.

What type of work will I be doing?

You will be working in the field harvesting crops, including anything from kale to squash.

How long does a gleaning event usually last?

Gleaning events usually last between two and four hours, including some delivery time.

I am physically unable to harvest crops. How else can I help?

You can help deliver the produce to community organizations working to fight food insecurity.

When does gleaning begin?

Gleaning season starts in June and ends around November, although there are volunteer opportunities year-round. You can commit to the whole season or just one gleaning day. It's totally up to you.

Can I sign up with a group of people?

Yes! We will happily organize a group gleaning day that could be a regular volunteer activity or a one-time event.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL
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