

Food Donation Guidelines

Benefits of Food Donations:

- Convenient, no cost pick-ups
- Savings in storage, inventory, transportation and dumping costs
- Donation receipt showing weight by product category
- Tax incentive: businesses can deduct an amount equal to the cost of donated items plus 50% of the difference between cost and market value

Many reasons why companies choose to donate, including:

- Produce too big or small for supermarket standards
- Unharvested or imperfect produce
- Date Codes
- Overproduction
- Production flaws
- Mislabeled or unlabelled product – “brights” can be accepted with verification of ingredients
- Pack change or reformulations
- Cosmetic packaging damages
- Shipping errors
- Deliveries that are not accepted and cannot be returned cost-effectively
- Product samples or test market items

For Food Criteria

- In general, we accept perishable donations from commercial or licensed food facilities only.
- We accept dry or canned food; however to maximize use of our refrigerated trucks, we encourage donations of **strictly** non-perishable items to a social service agency or food drive.

Pick-up Criteria

To make the best use of our trucks:

- We will gladly accept food donations of 200 lbs. or more. If your donation is less than 200 lbs., we ask that you deliver it directly to our warehouse during normal business hours or to one of our partner agencies..
- Ideally, the food should be packed, ready and accessible for pick-up upon the driver's arrival.
- Pick-up locations should be within the Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Tri-county area.
- Alternate arrangements may be made for donations that do not meet the above criteria - please call us to inquire.

Pick-up Arrangements

- **By phone: at (248) 967-1500 - Dispatch is ext 109.** While our trucks are on the road six days a week, we answer the phone during business hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday.
- **E-mails** may be directed to laweber@forgottenharvest.org
- **Regularly scheduled pick-ups:** If you know that you will have a sufficient quantity of food to donate on a regular basis, we can arrange daily, weekly or monthly pick-ups for our frequent donors.
- **As needed pick-ups:** Generally within 24 hours. While we may be able to make a same day pick up if called in early enough, further advance notice, if possible, is much appreciated.
- **Please note:** pick-up times cannot be guaranteed due to circumstances beyond our control such as unscheduled call-ins or traffic. In the event that we cannot make a pick-up, we will notify you to make alternate arrangements.