

Fresh from the Fields

A FARM TO FOODBANK NEWSLETTER

Sharing Food

- **36,416 lbs.** purchased from **18 Moco Farms**
- Supported **36 Food Assistance Providers (FAPs)**
- Most purchased items: **10,050 lbs.** of **sweet corn** and **5,570 lbs.** of **apples**

Farm Highlight

The 2nd year of contract growing with support from the Healthcare Initiative Foundation is fully underway! Just a few weeks ago, we got to see Niyi at Dodo Farms in Brookeville, harvesting over 400 lbs. of tomatoes. He then drove the tomatoes down to Clifton Park Baptist Church (CPBC) Hub to be shared via their food distributions. Thus far in their contract, they have delivered 1,000 lbs. of cabbage and 1,775 lbs. of tomatoes to CPBC. We're incredibly grateful for this partnership and the hard work Niyi and Tope are doing to deliver fresh produce to a Montgomery County Service Consolidation Hub.



FAP Feedback

This growing season, we have been requesting feedback from FAPs supported through the Farm to Food Bank Program. Here's some of what our partners have to say:

"The feedback on the food has been overwhelmingly positive! Many remarked on the freshness and vibrant appearance of the greens, while others appreciated the convenience of the radishes and greens already being packaged in small bags. This thoughtful packaging not only made distribution easier but also allowed us to reach more families. A big thank you to the farmer for their dedication and time in providing such high-quality produce!"

"We are so appreciative of the peaches from Lewis Orchards! They were fresh and our community was so excited for such a fabulous, healthy surprise! Thank you so much! On a picking up note, everyone at Lewis Orchards was SO friendly and helpful. It was so nice visiting them and seeing so many wonderful people."

"Both the lettuce and swiss chard were beautiful and greatly appreciated. Lots of families did not know how to use the swiss chard, but once people in line started suggesting ideas, they got excited about how to use it."

"The produce was fresh, clean and excellent quality. I cannot express enough my gratitude to Loves Gardens for the donation. I deliver to seniors and home bound individuals and it is a joy to see the smile on their faces to receive fresh produce."

Seeking

A few Farmers have expressed interest in having an informal end-of-growing-season debrief sometime in November or December. If you are interested and have ideas for date and location, please reach out to annarose@mannafood.org.

Want to be featured in our newsletter? Email annarose@mannafood.org



Manna operates Farm to Food Bank in partnership with the Office of Food Systems Resilience, the Office of Agriculture, and the Montgomery County Food Council.