

Community Donation Gardening Toolkit

Section 4: Gleaning

Sometimes, farmers produce more than they can harvest, or bring more to the farmers market than they are able to sell. Emerging networks of community members and local organizations across Iowa are working together to recover or "glean" food from farms, farmers markets, restaurants, and institutions-- food that would not otherwise be sold or eaten. The food gets distributed through food assistance sites and agencies, such as area food pantries.

Several Iowa organizations are actively working on food recovery and distribution (See additional resources below). In the coming months, ISU Extension and Outreach is developing gleaning resources for this toolkit. Resources under construction include a gleaning training for volunteers, resources for farmers, and more; please check back for updates.

Additional resources

- [Table-to-Table](#) in Johnson County, supported in part through ISU Extension & Outreach SNAP-Ed, is one example of a large-scale food recovery operation working to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables available at food pantries.
- [Eat Greater Des Moines](#), [Feed Iowa First \(in Cedar Rapids\)](#), [Quad Cities Food Rescue Partnership](#), and [Up from the Earth \(in Sioux City\)](#) are examples of other regional organizations in Iowa working on gleaning and food recovery.
- [Food Recovery Network chapters](#) on college campuses include Iowa State University, Drake University ([NextCourse Food Recovery](#)), Simpson College, Cornell College, and Grinnell College.
- [USDA Gleaning Toolkit](#)

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