

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL NASHVILLE FARM SURVEY ON FOOD DONATION ISSUES

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Thank you for taking this survey. We appreciate the time you are taking to participate. Please keep in mind that when we say “donation,” we’re including BOTH surplus product and seconds that you donate without compensation AND product that you provide to the nonprofit for a nominal fee (e.g., 5–30 cents per pound).

1. What is your farm’s name? _____
2. In what county/counties do you farm? _____
3. How many acres do you typically have in vegetable and/or fruit production each year? 0–4 acres, 5–14, 15–24, 25–99, 100–400, more than 400
4. In a typical year, what percentage of your overall fruit and vegetable production (that is suitable for human consumption) are you unable to sell?
 - 0–9%
 - 10–19%
 - 20–29%
 - 30–39%
 - 40–49%
 - 50% or more
5. Of the product that you are not able to sell, what percentage of your mature crop do you believe does not go to human consumption for the following reasons in a typical year? (e.g., 50% due to market conditions, 40% due to cosmetic imperfections, 10% due to labor shortages)
 - Market conditions (e.g., lack of a viable market or low prices)
 - Cosmetic imperfections (e.g., items too large/small/misshapen/scarred)
 - Labor shortages at harvest time



- Short shelf-life
- Other reasons _____

6. What 5 products do you most typically have in surplus? How many acres do you grow of each of those 5 products, and what percentage of each typically goes unsold (whether it's been harvested or left in the field)?

PRODUCTS IN SURPLUS	ACRAGE GROWN	% UNSOLD

7. Do you sometimes interplant cover crops with food crops (e.g., kale or turnips alongside rye or clover)? Often, occasionally, rarely, or not at all

8. Now we would like to ask you, in particular, about products that are cosmetically imperfect. We are defining cosmetically imperfect produce as items that are fresh, undamaged, and suitable for human consumption, but too cosmetically imperfect to meet minimum industry-accepted standards for cosmetic appearance (e.g., too large, too small, misshapen, miscolored, etc.). In an average year, what percentage of your annual production would you say is cosmetically imperfect?



For each crop, please check off: I don't produce this, 0-5%, 6-10%, 11-20%, 21-30%, 31-40%, More than 40%

CROP	I don't produce this	0-5%	6-10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%,	More than 40%
Alliums (e.g., onions, leeks, shallots, garlic)							
Apples							
Berries							
Broccoli							
Cabbage (red or green)							
Cantaloupe							
Cucumbers							
Eggplant							
Green beans							
Greens (kale, collards, turnip and mustard greens)							
Kohlrabi							
Peaches							
Peas							
Peppers (all varieties)							
Potatoes (white, red, yellow)							
Winter squash							
Root crops (carrots, beets)							
Salad greens (lettuces, spinach)							
Sweet corn							
Sweet potatoes							
Tomatoes							
Watermelon							
Zucchini/Summer Squash							



9. What do you currently do with product that is suitable for human consumption but that you are unable to sell? (e.g., I leave 60% in the field, compost 20%, donate 10% for free, and process 10% for personal use = 100%)
- Leave them in the field
 - Harvest them and then compost them
 - Use them as animal feed
 - Donate them for free
 - Provide to food bank/food pantry in exchange for a nominal per-pound payment
 - Sell to a processor (e.g., cannery, commercial kitchen)
 - Process them for personal use (e.g., for salsa or jam)
 - Send to a landfill
 - Other
10. Even if you are interested in donating surplus produce, various barriers can sometimes stand in the way. Please identify the TOP THREE barriers you experience when thinking about donating unsold fruits or vegetables:
- Expenses for packaging materials (boxes, totes)
 - Labor costs associated with additional picking and packing
 - Not enough storage space on my farm
 - Nearby food shelves have difficulty receiving fruits and vegetables
 - Transporting the product to a food pantry
 - We're just too busy at harvest time/we're not focused on making donations
 - I'm not sure who to contact
11. Do you experience other barriers with donation that we didn't ask about above? _____
12. Are you aware that Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee offers a small payment for fruits and vegetables to farmers that donate (e.g., 5–30 cents per pound)? Yes /No
13. Would receiving 5–30 cents per pound make it easier or more appealing for you to donate?
- No, we WON'T donate anyway
 - No, we WOULD donate anyway
 - Yes, it would make SOME difference to us
 - Yes, it would make a BIG difference to us



14. If you have any feedback about this type of payment, please share it here _____

15. Are you aware that the U.S. Congress recently made small and midsize farmers eligible for the same tax deductions that larger companies receive when donating surplus food? Yes/no
16. Overall, which description best fits you? (Please check one. In this question, we ask first about donating food that you have harvested yourself. In the question after this, we'll ask about gleaning specifically):
- I am very interested in donating unsold produce (or increasing my current donations)
 - I am moderately interested in donating unsold produce (or increasing my current donations)
 - I am not interested in donating
17. Where having volunteers glean at your farm is concerned, please check one:
- I am very interested in opportunities for gleaning on my farm
 - I am moderately interested in opportunities for gleaning on my farm
 - I am not interested in gleaning activities
18. If there was one thing we could do to make it easier for you to donate unsold fruits and vegetables or participate in gleaning, what would it be? (Constructive advice would be very welcome!) _____
19. Can we contact you with information about opportunities for donation or gleaning? Yes/no
20. If yes, please provide either your email or phone number, depending on how you prefer to be contacted. _____
21. Are there any other comments or suggestions you'd like to share? _____

Please make sure to hit "DONE" below to ensure that your response is recorded.
Thank you again for participating. We hope you will have a terrific growing season!

