

Now your department/agency employees CAN donate garden produce to a nearby food pantry.

For the first time, federal employees donating food to the Feds Feed Families campaign can also donate excess garden produce from their home/community garden.

Instead of bringing their harvested food to the office, they can take it directly to a local food pantry in their own community.

Thanks to a partnership with AmpleHarvest.org, an innovative non-profit organization, government employees can easily find a food pantry in their own community that is eager for the fresh food by simply visiting www.AmpleHarvest.org/FFF.

Food pantries get the fresh food, many for the first time, growers get the satisfaction of knowing that their extra food is not going to be left to rot in the garden, pantry clients get the option of enjoying freshly harvested food, the environment benefits, and more donations can be attributed to the FFF program.



Q. Why haven't gardeners been able to donate their garden produce along with the cans, jars and boxes in

A. As a rule, the food bank network cannot accept short shelf life foods like fruits and vegetables. AmpleHarvest.org



solved that by enabling donors to take food directly to a local food pantry. You can learn more about the problem and the AmpleHarvest.org solution in this <u>6 minute video</u>.

Q. How many food pantries are accessible?

A. About 7,500 across all 50 states, with more being added daily.

Q. I've never heard of AmpleHarvest.org - where did it come from?

A. AmpleHarvest.org is the creation of <u>CNN Hero</u> Gary Oppenheimer. They have worked closely with the USDA, White House and EPA for about five years.

Q. Is there any cost for working with AmpleHarvest.org?

A. No. It is totally free for the gardeners and the food pantries.

Q. How does the food get to the food pantry?

A. AmpleHarvest.org functions as a search engine helping the grower find a nearby food pantry. Once located, the grower typically takes the food to their pantry directly. In most cases, the nearest food pantry is located within a short driving distance. In some cases, the food pantry may also be able to pick up the food from the grower.

Q. How do we track what fresh food gardeners have donated as part of FFF?

A. A form will shortly be added to www.AmpleHarvest.org/FFF for the federal employees to document the donation and then provide it to her/his FFF coordinator.

Q. Where can I find more information for our employees?

A. Visit the AmpleHarvest.org/FFF Frequently Asked Questions page.

Q. Where can I learn more about AmpleHarvest.org?

A. There are three excellent videos available online:

- An episode of PBS's Growing A Greener World
- A TED Talk
- A recent presentation at <u>Temple University</u>

Q. What's with the yellow tab and Amazon.com on the first page?

A. If you are only donating food from your garden, it doesn't apply to you, but if you planning making a virtual donation using Amazon.com, start with www.AmpleHarvest.org/Amazon. While you will be helping a food bank, Amazon.com will help AmpleHarvest.org – at no cost to you.

Q. We need more information - how can I contact AmpleHarvest.org?

A. Email them at info@AmpleHarvest.org or if you need to speak to someone, call AMPLE-6-9880 (267-536-9880)

Q. Can AmpleHarvest.org provide a speaker to one of our meetings?

A. Yes. Visit www.AmpleHarvest.org/speaker for more information.