

## Kentucky Farms Support Our Hungry Neighbors

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF FOOD BANKS  
FARM TO NEIGHBOR PROGRAMS



### OVERVIEW

#### HUNGER IS A PROBLEM IN KENTUCKY

Nearly 700,000 Kentuckians do not always know where their next meal is coming from. Children are especially vulnerable, with 1 in 5 Kentucky kids at risk of hunger every day. The effects of hunger can be directly linked to health outcomes, kids' performance in school, and the Kentucky economy.

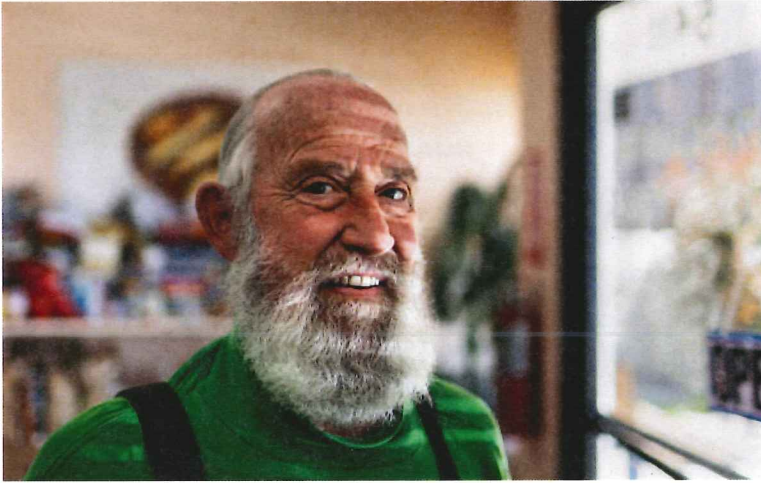
The commonwealth has a rich agricultural history and a statewide network of farms. We have the resources to feed hungry people, but have not had the infrastructure to connect farms to our needy neighbors. The Kentucky Association of Food Banks is solving this problem through two programs: Farms to Food Banks and the Kentucky-Grown Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Program (K-VIP).

#### IMPACT OF HUNGER

Hunger and health are deeply connected. People who are food insecure are disproportionately affected by diet-sensitive chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure, and according to research, food insecurity is also linked to many adverse effects to overall health.

Healthy bodies and minds require nutritious meals at every age. But when people don't have enough food or have to choose inexpensive foods with low nutritional value, it can seriously impact their health.

Helping our hungry neighbors and supporting farms does not have to be mutually exclusive. That's why the Kentucky Association of Food Banks farm to neighbor programs are vital to the health of hungry Kentuckians and the commonwealth's economy.



Hunger is problem in Kentucky, but a solvable one. We can help families that do not have consistent access to nutritious foods and leverage dollars to support local farmers.

### FARMS TO FOOD BANKS

Farms to Food Banks funds are used to help farmers recoup losses for produce that would otherwise not be sold because of cosmetic imperfections or overproduction. The produce is distributed to hungry Kentuckians throughout the state through the KAFB network. This is fresh, healthy food that would otherwise go to waste.

In 2017, 390 farmers from 66 Kentucky counties participated in the program. These producers benefitted from increased cash flow and reduced losses through a new market for surplus and Number 2-grade produce. Over 3.6 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables were distributed, which was enough to supplement 6,017,000 meals. \$677,355 was spent on produce purchases.

This year, our goal is to work with 400 KY farmers from at least 65 counties. We aim to distribute 2,700,000 pounds of 28 types of KY-grown produce to disadvantaged Kentuckians in all 120 counties.

### KENTUCKY GROWN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

K-VIP creates a financial incentive for feeding site sponsors to include Kentucky-grown fruit and vegetables in the summer meals they serve and boost participation in summer feeding programs in the Commonwealth. For every \$3 a participating sponsor spends at a Kentucky farm, K-VIP will reimburse them for \$1.

K-VIP is a win-win for Kentucky because it feeds our hungry children and expands market opportunities for local farmers. K-VIP funding is available for summer food service program sponsors that purchase produce directly from Kentucky farmers.

This summer, 52 schools and nonprofits are participating in K-VIP. Of those partners, only 41% have purchased fruits and vegetables from a farmer. If all K-VIP funds are exhausted, summer food sponsors will inject \$550,000 into the local food economy this summer.