



**Chatham-Kent Public Health**  
*Food Policy Council*  
PO Box 1136, 435 Grand Avenue West,  
Chatham, ON N7M 5L8  
Tel: 519.352.7270 Fax: 519.352.2166

Dear Local Producer,

**Community food security** is when all community residents obtain a safe, culturally appropriate, and nutritious diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance, social justice, and equal access for everyone. It addresses issues in the economic, environmental, and social aspects of the food system, and thus promotes adequate incomes for consumers and producers; local and diverse food production; environmental sustainability; protection of local agricultural lands and fish habitat; widespread access to nutritious food; and food-based community economic development and social cohesion.

Gleaning is one initiative that works to support community food security by increasing local food availability, food access, and food use. Gleaning is commonly understood as the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested, or collecting produce from individual homeowners who have excess in the gardens or on fruit trees. The Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council determined that food access is a priority area and have developed a gleaning project for Chatham-Kent. Thus, to reduce the amount of edible food that is wasted in the food system the [CK Gleaning Project](#) links food producers and community agencies to divert food that would otherwise be left in the field, to people and organizations who can use it.

As a first step, in June 2014, a forum was held to bring together individuals who were interested in hearing what had been done in other communities. During the summer of 2015, we conducted a pilot project and this was expanded into a full program during the 2016 harvest season. We continue to work closely with local producers and have been successful at bringing leftover produce to local service agencies in the community such as local food banks, soup kitchens, cooking programs, youth program, and other agencies that support individuals in our communities. We would like to continue to expand the program to include more local agencies and more local farmers, and would like to invite you to participate in the Chatham-Kent Gleaning Project.

### **About the CK Gleaning Project:**

#### **Vision**

- Equipping people to rescue surplus produce from fields and gardens.

#### **Mission**

- Connecting food producers who have surplus produce with neighbours and community food programs through relationship building, experiential learning, and volunteer engagement.



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## **Program Priorities**

- Building Partnerships
  - Our goal is to develop partnerships that connect local farmers and community food programs
- Facilitating Food Redistribution
  - We harvest excess produce and share with local community food programs
  - Local agencies receive gleaned produce free of charge to distribute to their clients, or for use in food banks, soup kitchens, and food skill programs.
- Helping Our Volunteers
  - We aim to identify, recruit and provide comprehensive training and supports to individuals wishing to participate in experiential learning opportunities
  - Those who help harvest the produce will also receive a portion of the food to take home and share with their families
- Developing Resources
  - Creation of tools and resources to support the gleaning program.
- Evaluating
  - Ongoing program evaluation and improvement for continued success.

## **Expectations for participating producers:**

- Provide their contact information, the location of the fields to be gleaned, the types of crops that are available for gleaning/pick up, and how we can access them.
- Responsible to advise (by phone or email) when fields are ready to be gleaned. We will work with producers to arrange the date and time that works best for them to have the gleaners come to their fields.
- To keep volunteers safe, farmers must inform us of any special instructions/additional training required for the gleaning process.
  - Volunteers will be required to complete detailed safety training through the health unit, and are covered by the municipal volunteer policy for insurance purposes.

**If interested in participating in the CK Gleaning Project, please apply using the intake form below.**



**CK Gleaning Project – Local Producer Intake Form**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Can this information be added to our gleaning producer list? YES  NO

How do you prefer to be contacted? \_\_\_\_\_

**PRODUCER INFORMATION**

1. Do your crops require volunteers to come out and pick/glean, or would they be available for pick up only? GLEANING REQUIRED  PICK UP ONLY  CROP DEPENDANT
2. Please list any crops that would be available for the gleaning project along with the typical harvest month.

Crop	Harvest Month
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Where are the fields located? Please include community(ies), address(es) and 911 number(s).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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4. For crops that are to be harvested by volunteers, are there any specific instructions they need to be aware of during the process (i.e. tools needed, techniques required for picking, required clothing, safety equipment, etc.)?

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5. Is there any additional information that we should be aware of during the gleaning process (i.e. any pets on site, safety requirements, laneway for access)?

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**Thank you for taking the time to complete the intake form. Please send your completed form to to [terrylynt@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:terrylynt@chatham-kent.ca). If you have any questions, please connect with: Terrylyn Timmermans at 519-352-7270 ext. 5710 or email [FoodPolicyCouncil@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:FoodPolicyCouncil@chatham-kent.ca)**