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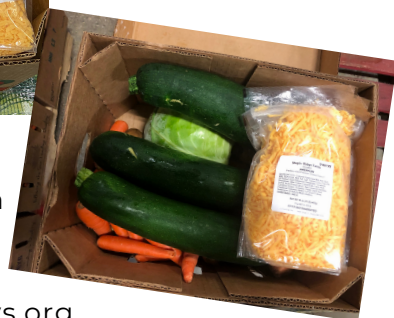
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Wegmans Organic Farm Tour

Fresh To Go Boxes

- 23lb. box of produce items & 2 lbs. shredded cheese
- Food Bank price \$4.90/box
- Shipped to your food bank



Sourcing Needs?
Contact Jim Germain
Produce Manager
518-728-5169 or
jgermain@feedingnys.org

FOOD
SHOULDN'T
BE AN
**IMPOSSIBLE
CHOICE**

Join the fight to end hunger.

*Hunger
Action
Month*

September is Hunger Action Month

The Feeding America network's annual nationwide campaign designed to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of hunger in the United States.

What is Hunger Action Day?

September 23rd is Hunger Action Day

A day where collective efforts across the country are focused for greater impact.

Go Orange

Orange is the color of hunger relief. During Hunger Action Month we join together by wearing orange, turning our city landmarks orange, and raising our voices all across the country on behalf of the millions of people facing hunger in America.

A MESSAGE FROM FEEDING NEW YORK



It's been a busy summer!

As the summer time sun began to shine, FNYS was ramping up our work by supporting our members. With the hire of Ryan Healy as our Advocacy Manager we have worked throughout the summer to develop Advocacy Priorities and collect neighbor feedback in preparation for the White House Hunger Conference.

We are proud to have been invited to the FANO|DFA Dairy Nourishes America Symposium in June to present the BC team's work on developing a statewide dairy program. Additionally we have absorbed new information at the FNC Conference in Philly to help build projects with our members in mind!

Funding to support the work of FNYS and its members continues. This fiscal year we have received new funding of over \$2 million.

Hunger Action Month will be busy with efforts to bring awareness to the need across the state. We look forward to working alongside of you!

Welcome Beth Barlow - Administrative Assistant for FNYS



I joined the FNYS Team in June of 2022 as the Administrative Assistant for FNYS. I could not be happier to join such a great team.

I am a recent graduate from Albany University with a degree in Public Health to go along with my Administrative Assistant experience. I enjoy hiking and have done 13 of the 46 highest peaks in NY state. I truly look forward providing support to the association and helping in the fight against hunger.



FOOD SOURCERS' MEETING

Feeding New York State hosted a team gathering in June with Sourcers' from each regional food bank along with Feeding America staff. We were able to spend a lot of time networking, building relationships, and learning with our peers throughout New York. We intend to make this an annual meeting!

In addition, NYS food banks staff gathered together for a Social Hour at the FNC Conference in Philadelphia.



June 8 Sourcers' Meeting

17 staff from **9 food banks**

3 FANO staff

4 Retail & Coop Guests

5 FNYS staff

1 Awesome Day



Advocacy Update

UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS



Randi Quackenbush
Food Bank of
the Southern
Tier

The case for universal school meals in New York State

This coming budget season, NYS has the opportunity to be a leader in the nation by passing *Healthy School Meals for All NY Kids*. This initiative would provide free breakfast and lunch to all students in New York State during the school day and be a crucial investment in our children.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, universal school meals seemed like an impossible dream. As the pandemic began disrupting all of our lives, the federal government and USDA extended waivers and implemented flexible rules that allowed schools to provide meals to all children, regardless of their circumstances. This enabled schools to serve millions of meals to students while supporting families in such times of uncertainty and providing an essential lifeline of support schools were disrupted.

We had the opportunity to make these changes permanent on the federal level, and unfortunately Congress did not seize this opportunity. Instead, advocates in New York State have taken this discussion to Albany.

Providing universal school meals to all students ensures access to nutrition, eliminates the stigma surrounding free and reduced priced meals, reduces the administrative burden on school staff and parents, and has shown improvements in student attendance, academic performance, and more.

Passing this legislation would enable NYS to join California, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Maine as national leaders on this issue who prioritize the well-being of their children. Currently to be eligible for free school meals, a family of 4 must make less than \$50,000, which is \$20,000 below the median income. Recent studies have found that this legislation would impact 750,000 children in NYS and cost about \$200 million per year. While this cost may seem high, other studies have also found that every \$1 spent on school meals brings a \$2 investment in human health and economic benefits.

The Healthy School Meals campaign is backed by Hunger Solutions, Community Food Advocates as well as dozens of organizations across the state, including Feeding NYS. Ensuring access to nutrition for our state's children is a moral, economic, and health imperative. Feeding NYS urges the NYS Legislature to enact universal school meals for all students.

Randi is the Director of Community Impact at Food Bank of the Southern Tier

"The Case for Healthy School Meals for All," Food Research & Action Center, June 2021.
<https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/SchoolMealsForAll.pdf?eType=EmailConfirmation&eld=0499baeb-fb6e-44f5-ae88-b53ac9d26de1>

"True Cost of Food: School Meals Case Study," The Rockefeller Foundation, November 2021.
<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/report/true-cost-of-food-school-meals-case-study/>

Food Sourcing Update

EXPANDING OUR REACH



Bekah McMurrain
Agri Food
Engagement Director

As a part of FANO's supply chain resources, there is an Agri Food Engagement team that focuses on fostering relationships and enhancing regional collaboration to support network growth in Agri pounds (fresh produce, protein, and dairy). This team provides agri-business consultation and thought leadership for the regional food sharing models (cooperatives), Partner State Associations (PSAs), and member food banks with the purpose of supporting network Agri strategy objectives. This team has a regional focus divided into three areas: west, central, and east. Each area is equipped with an Agri Food Engagement Director that serves as the main point of contact for network partners in that region.

As the Agri Food Engagement Director (AFED) for the east region I joined FANO in February 2021 as the AFED for the Southeast. A few months ago my region extended to include the Northeast. I work directly with the cooperatives and PSAs in the east to steward strategic projects and co-create deliverables that provide support to member food banks to help meet neighbor food needs and preferences. Over the last couple of months, I have worked closely with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Cooperative (MARC) and Feeding New York State (FNYS) to better understand the northeast region and learn how I can utilize my role to advocate and support. Thus far, I have had the opportunity to travel to New York to attend the FNYS Sourcing conference and accompany Jim Germain with donor visits as well as tour the Philadelphia Market with the MARC to learn more about its operations. I am excited to continue to travel to more in the Northeast to learn more about how each food bank operates and better understand the network demand.



I am especially thrilled to be working with our partners in New York as that is where I began my produce career working for a citrus importers. My first industry boss once categorized me as a "produce head". Although in that moment I wasn't sure if that fit, I have since learned that working in AG was exactly where I belonged – and remain. I am extremely passionate about working towards minimizing food insecurity and food waste – and am proud to be a part of the Feeding America network helping with just that.

I will continue to focus on listening and learning to the network as I continue to gain experience in this space. I am always available as a FANO resource for Agri foods and look forward to working with you! My email address is rmcmurrain@feedingamerica.org and my cell is 253.571.9055.

Sourcing Needs? Contact Jim Germain, Produce Manager
518-728-5169 or jgermain@feedingnys.org

Food Recovery Update

STATEWIDE FRIENDSHIPS



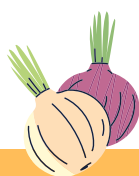
Jay Hawkins
Food Rescue
Manager

Wegmans Organic Farm & Orchard Tour

Wegmans gave Feeding New York State, Foodlink, and FeedMore WNY a private tour of their Farm and Orchard in July. Since planting their first seeds in 2007, Wegmans has trialed over 100 organic crops at the Organic Farm. New varieties are being tested all the time, and in 2022 they are trialing 10 new cherry tomato varieties. Their goal is to take the successful crops to their organic partners and have them grow these varieties exclusively for them.

Made up of new farmers, their team innovates, trials, and calls on a community of supportive partners to develop their craft. At the Organic Farm & Orchard, growing organically is about fostering harmony and helping to inspire balance every day in the field. This balance is achieved through the team's keen sense of observation and fine-tuning of their skills, both of which take a lot of practice. *(overview from Wegmans website)*

Learning about regenerative agriculture and food systems helps FNYS understand how to approach food recovery and make connections with farmers and growers across the state. **It was a great visit!**



Boundless Collaboration Update

WHAT WE ACHIEVE TOGETHER

NYS awarded
13 Truck
loads
Shredded
Cheese



► How is Shredding Hunger making an impact?



Recovered and repurposed cheese means more people are benefiting from nutritious food options



By saving cheese trimmings, we are reducing food waste and promoting sustainability efforts



With donated product, processing costs, and transportation, we can provide cheese at a fraction of the commercial cost

► How does the Shredding Hunger program work?

When cheese bricks are cut for sale, excess trimmings are often discarded as waste. The program collects these high-quality remnants and puts them to good use.

1

Product is identified

Partners actively work with manufacturers and packagers around the country to source cheese trimmings.

2

Transportation is arranged

Product is picked up by Maple Ridge Foods and delivered to a processor. Once shredded, the cheese is repackaged into family-size units.

3

Cheese is distributed

After packaging, the newly shredded cheese is handed-off to local food banks at a discounted price.

FEEDING
AMERICA



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Proud member of



Advocacy Works *highlight*

HUNGER PREVENTION AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HPNAP)

For more than 30 years, NYS Department of Health-HPNAP has provided state and federal funds to improve the quality of food distributed to Emergency Food Relief Organizations in New York State.

**\$22 MIL
INCREASE**

Our members successfully advocated this year for a \$22M increase to the program. This is the biggest HPNAP budget increase ever. Our teamwork made it happen!

ADVOCACY
WORKS | **END
HUNGER**