



NEW JERSEY FARMERS AGAINST HUNGER GLEANING VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

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“Volunteers Don’t Just Do The Work. They Make It Work” – Carol Petit

Thank you for joining Farmers Against Hunger in our effort to recover fresh produce for New Jersey neighbors in need. We appreciate our 1200+ volunteers and hope that you will find the experience enjoyable and rewarding.

Our goals:

- **To respect the farm, owners and staff who have donated to our program**
- **To harvest surplus crops while insuring a safe and educational experience for our volunteers**

With this in mind, we ask the Group Leaders to assist in making sure group members follow these guidelines as you volunteer with us. We require our volunteers to follow these rules to ensure a safe and effective gleaning. We also require that participants or their parent/guardian sign a release and indemnity agreement prior to participating in a gleaning event, which acknowledges they have read and agree to our guidelines. Group Leaders should bring the signed release and indemnity agreement for all participants to the gleaning event. Farmers Against Hunger reserves the right to ask any group or individual not adhering to these guidelines to leave the farm and not participate in future gleanings.

Group leaders: please share the following guidelines with all participants and guardians prior to the event:

Safety

1. **It is the adult leaders’ responsibility to keep children safe in the parking lot. No running.**
2. Please glean only in designated areas. **Children must remain under adult supervision at all times as they glean.** Tractors and other vehicles may be passing through other rows and cannot be watching for people as they work. Take care not to step on the plants or bump the branches of the trees we are gleaning under.
3. Certain farms have age restrictions for children and size limits as there are safety hazards. Babies and toddlers are not suitable for this type of farm work. Please inquire with Kris Guttadora, Program Director, before bringing children under the age of 10 to a farm.
4. Group leaders should **be aware of their group’s allergens.** People with severe allergies (especially to bees) should not attend gleanings. All group leaders (especially of children) should bring an emergency kit on hand in the field with children and adult Benadryl in case of an unknown allergic reaction. Group leaders must be able to

- administer the medication, or a parent may need to attend. Please consult your school or organization for their policy regarding treatment of allergies.
5. Recommended supplies: gloves, long pants, sunscreen, hats.
 6. **Required: closed toed shoes, water.**
 7. Please feel free to **take breaks as needed or leave early** if you are not feeling well. We prefer for you to be safe and healthy than push to stay.
 8. NJ Farmers Against Hunger works with many farms who practice traditional spraying methods and Integrated Pest Management (IPM), to eliminate crops of pests and disease. Farms are required to use licensed applicators and spray according to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines, to insure consumer and employee safety. Volunteers should be aware that we may be working with crops that have been sprayed, but please understand that **gleaning will always occur beyond the state and federal mandated "re-entry" period for the particular pesticide that is being used.** Most often, gleaning occurs at the end of the growing cycle, when farmers have not spent the time or money to spray. Also, at many of the u-pick farms where we glean, safety procedures for volunteers would align with those that insure the safety of the farm workers and customers. We advise any gleaning volunteers concerned about pesticide residue to wear gloves as an additional protective measure.

Additional information:

1. Please park further down from the prime "customer parking" spots when you arrive at the farms to allow customers to more easily access the market.
2. Most farms do not have bathrooms, while others offer portable toilets. We try to **use the bathrooms elsewhere before arrival if possible.**
3. In apple orchards, glean **ONLY off the ground**, not off the trees. The farmer relies on selling these apples and cannot afford to lose any that we bump off or pick by accident.
4. Please inform all group members that the gleaning experience is both work and fun! We hope for it to be a fun, learning experience, but also need to work while we are there. All participants must be willing to **work for the designated time period** of the gleaning. We will take breaks and have activities planned to motivate our volunteers!
5. Please leave the farm the same way we found it. Help to **clean up** any water bottles, bags, or trash from the farm before leaving.
6. Certain farms have **limits on the number of people gleaning.** Again, check with the Gleaning Coordinator before offering the gleaning opportunity to a large group. Gleanings should be limited to 20 people or less, unless otherwise discussed with the Gleaning Coordinator who will check with the farmer.