The Downeast Gleaning Initiative
A Project of Healthy Acadia in partnership with University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Who are we?

The Gleaning Initiative is a food security project from the ground up that puts food recovery at the heart of collective action.

Our goal is to build innovative inroads between farms, restaurants, retail stores and other establishments, and the 18 local food pantries and meal-sites that are working to strengthen food security, to increase the resilience of the local food systems in Hancock County.

Our objective is to create a sustainable framework from which to revitalize the ancient tradition of collecting leftovers from our farmers’ fields and integrate the redistribution of quality surplus food, otherwise going to waste, into our food systems operations.
Apple Gleaning - a fruitful tradition

Apple Gleaning Helps Area Food Pantries

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BY JOY HOLLOWELL

LOCAL NEWS, NEWS
Gleaning in Maine

- Downeast Gleaning Initiative, Healthy Acadia
- Central Maine Gleaners
- Glean ME, Aroostook
- Sommerset Public Health
- Midcoast Hunger Initiative
- Umaine Cooperative Extension, Portland
Gleaning Coordinators

The Gleaning Coordinator role is to:

• increase gleaning activity and community resilience
• integrate gleaning practices into the food security organizations
• train and manage volunteer systems and build community
• create mutually beneficial relationships with farmers

The Gleaning Coordinator is accountable to the Hancock County Food Security Network, and Umaine Cooperative Extension.
Different entry points

Gleaning Traditions - happening on a yearly basis
Spontaneous Gleaning – a farming or market glitch
Farmer Exchange - labor, marketing, transportation
Growing for Food Security - gardeners and volunteers
Collecting at Farmers Market - a public event
Innovative Partnerships – across sector lines

We do it all !!!
10 Steps to Gleaning

1. Know your farmer, know your food security organization
2. Understand your volunteer base: recruit, train, match interests
3. Coordinate the logistics: distribution and storage
4. Agree on quality standards and develop protocols
5. Match expectations between farms and pantries
6. Set up reporting, documentation, verification tools
7. Communicate gleaning for delivery points
8. Create feedback loops for evaluation and improvements
9. Outreach efforts in media and local/regional events
10. Integrate gleaning into partner organizations’ programs
The Hancock County Food Security Network

Bar Harbor Food Pantry
Bread of Life
Bucksport Community Concern
Common Good Soup Kitchen
Dinner Is Served
Emmaus Center
Everybody Eats for Free
Food for All
Friends in Action
H.O.M.E Coop
Island Pantry
Lifeline Ministries
Loaves and Fishes
Simmering Pot
Tree of Life
The Welcome Table
Westside Food Pantry
What’s for Suppa’

Photos Courtesy Robert F. Bukaty | Bangor Daily News
Champion gleaning volunteer

“Over the years I have held many jobs. Most of them were jobs dealing with people. I was always very social and always loved working with people, but over the years after too many bad experiences, I became sour towards it. Disillusioned. I was becoming more and more reclusive.”
We are trying not to recreate a secondary food system, but integrate gleaning into the current food system by piggy-backing on existing systems.
Gleaning America's Farms: Unused Crops Feed Hungry Families

Great Media attention is extremely important!
Initially designed as a one year project, The Gleaning Initiative will be starting its 4th season in Hancock County and 2\textsuperscript{nd} season in Washington County with over 100,000lbs rescued.

We have consolidated various independent gleaning systems in Hancock County as well as supported 5 other gleaning programs around the state.

We hope to get a Maine Gleaning Network funded soon!
Thank You

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Healthy Acadia is a Healthy Maine Partnership.

We empower people and organizations to build healthy communities.