

AGRICULTURE TIMELINE

How the food bank came to provide produce year round, and how we're a part of the local food economy.



Victory Gardens: non-commercial gardens that yield excess produce to donate to the food bank.

◇ **Victory Gardens** program founded.

◇ **Farm to Food Bank** program founded: BFB was one of 4 pilot programs in the state to receive funding for fresh produce contract purchases through the Local Farms, Healthy Kids legislative bill.

◇ **Small Potatoes Gleaning Project (SPGP)** management began: the food bank became the operator of this small project to gather commercial crops post-harvest that would otherwise be plowed under.



Garden Project: Recipients receive a raised bed garden, educational workshops, organic seeds and plant starts, tools, growing guides and access to a garden mentor - all free of charge for two years.

◇ **Seed Money** purchasing program began, supported by the Community Food Co-op of Bellingham's Farm Fund.

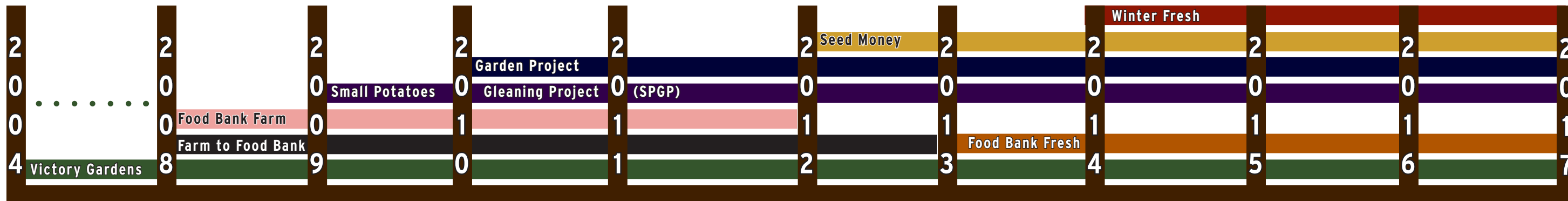
◇ **Farm to Food Bank** was renamed **Food Bank Fresh** and increased spending to supplant farm yields and increase supply of produce available year round.



Food Bank Fresh: Bellingham Food Bank pays local farmers to grow specific crops to distribute to clients to supplement grocery rescue supply.

◇ **Winter Fresh** program founded, adding to the **Food Bank Fresh** program and ensuring staple produce is available to clients December-February.

◇ **Food Bank Fresh** transitions bulk of purchases to Puget Sound Food Hub.



◇ **Food Bank Farm** founded: staffed 3 acres of land to tend and grow produce for the food bank.

◇ **Garden Project** started with Sustainable Whatcom Funds, annually building 25 home gardens for low-income households. This community outreach program focuses on education and empowerment.

◇ **Food Bank Farm** closed



Gleaning: the gathering of crops after a harvest.

◇ **Victory Gardens** program enhanced with yard signage and outreach.



Seed Money: contract purchasing program supporting emerging farmer's ability to grow their operations and provide food for food bank gleaning, made possible largely by Community Food Co-op Farm funds.