



## HOSTING A GLEAN - THE DETAILS



What you need to know about hosting a glean in your fields, orchards, or backyard trees

**Info about the program:** The Gleaning Project is a program of the **Bellingham Food Bank** focused on getting our community more access to local and fresh foods while helping our farms and neighbors. Our volunteers harvest thousands of pounds of produce each season from local farms, orchards, and backyard trees to feed families in need across Whatcom County.

*We are here to help you get that surplus crop out of the field, clean-out a row as the season ends, or pick loaded fruit trees, and get that food to people in your community!*

### How it works:

- You **contact** our gleaning coordinator (phone or email) with information about the crop you want harvested (quantity, quality, location, etc.). Together we **schedule a day and time to glean**. We also like to plan a visit before the glean, to get a better idea of what we need, parking, how many volunteers to bring etc.
- On gleaning day, we arrive with the necessary harvest tools, parking signs, volunteers, crates, and our box truck.
- We **harvest your crop** and transport it back to the Bellingham Food Bank where it will be stored, distributed, or shared with our partner food programs.
- You receive a **thank you/tax receipt** at the end of the season with the weight of your donation and details about the gleaning season!

*What is gleaning? The act of harvesting leftover, extra, or surplus produce from farm fields and orchards. Giving a home to produce that would otherwise not be harvested and eaten!*

*Our volunteers gleaned over **130,000 lbs** of produce in 2025!*





## MORE INFORMATION AND COMMON QUESTIONS



- **Can you come glean my backyard garden?** We do not glean home gardens, but you can donate your home-grown crops to the food bank yourself! Check out our [website](#) for more information!
- **I have extra produce already harvested.** Reach out and depending on quantity we may be able to collect it from your farm. We can transfer into our crates or macro-bins. We also glean at the Saturday BFM and can take extra produce then.
- **What about liability?** The Bellingham Food Bank has liability insurance - so you are not liable for our volunteers while they are on your property participating in the glean. We take safety very seriously! There will also always be a food bank employee at all planned gleans.
- **Do I have to be there while you glean?** Up to you! We can glean while you are on the property or not, as long as we have the necessary information to get the job done!
- **When do you schedule gleans?** We generally schedule gleans for 2 hours, Tuesday-Saturday. Our staff arrives before volunteers to set up parking signs and get ready for the glean. We are a seasonal program, so we glean from April to the end of October.
- **Where will my produce go?** We bring your produce back to the Bellingham Food Bank. It is then stored, put on our shopping floor, or packed into home delivery boxes. We also function as a regional distribution center, so gleaned produce can be re-distributed to food pantries/programs across Whatcom County.
- **Will I know how much I donate?** Yes, we weigh and record all gleaned produce donations and send you that information in a letter/receipt at the end of the season (end of October). If you need those details earlier, let us know!

**Connect with us today!**

**Gleaning Coordinator: Sion Calabretta**

**(360) 303 - 0912**

**[glean@bellinghamfoodbank.org](mailto:glean@bellinghamfoodbank.org)**

scan to check out our  
website! →



**<https://www.bellinghamfoodbank.org/glean>**