

Salem Harvest News

Connecting Neighbors through Community Harvests



THANK YOU!

We would like to thank our volunteers and property owners for donating their time and crops to Salem Harvest this year. More than 92,000 pounds – that's right, 46 tons! – of fresh fruits and vegetables were harvested by a cheerful army of almost 1,800 pickers and their children, making Salem Harvest the **largest community harvesting organization in Oregon**. All told, you harvested almost twice as many crops as last year.

Your generous donations found their way to food banks and pantries from Salem to Dallas to Silverton, and fed thousands of people. And many pickers who themselves struggle with job loss and economic challenges had an opportunity to provide for their families and gain self-sufficiency.

Thank you, farm and home owners, harvest assistants and pickers. We look forward to seeing you in the fields and orchards next summer!



Blueberry Harvest, August 2011

Eat local, help a farmer

From field to fork, the average dinner travels 1,500 miles, with most profits going to processors, distributors and marketers. When you buy from local farmers, you can play a vital role in preserving our beautiful farmland, and family farming as a way of life.

BY THE BUCKETFUL

All those cherries, green beans and apples add up!

2011 Harvest Season
92,209 pounds

2010 Harvest Season
53,012 pounds

Volunteer Pickers
1,794

Donated Crops

Apples, beans, blueberries, broccoli, cauliflower, cherries, corn, filberts, grapes, onions, pears, plums, potatoes and squash

THANK YOU for your responses to our survey. Many of your suggestions last year enabled us to streamline our operations. Our biggest challenge is managing explosive growth; we have had an overwhelming response to harvest notifications, and many are filled within minutes. Our concern is that some pickers without frequent access to the Internet are those most in need of free food. Fortunately, not all harvests fill quickly. Next season, please help get the word to your friends who have lost jobs or are struggling with food insecurity.



Cherry Harvest, August 2011

Hungriest state in the nation

One note from a picker – a single mom – to a farm owner said, “If it was not for farmers like you we would be hungry this winter.” Connecting unused produce to hungry families has never been more important. Oregon now has the nation’s highest rate of “child food insecurity,” with almost 30 percent of our children sometimes waking up or going to bed hungry.



Survey Results

Things You Liked

“The sense of community you felt with everyone working together.”

“I had a lot of fun getting out in the fresh air and picking good food for my family. It was a great way to meet new friends, and to teach my grandson where the food he eats really comes from.”

“Getting my hands dirty!”

“I liked seeing families and neighbors working side by side, doing something good in the community.”

“I loved meeting the farmers and being out on their farms. My husband and I had such a great time, felt such a connection with the earth, and felt gratitude to be able to pick with our own hands food for our family.”

“The group dynamic is wonderful!”

“Everyone, especially the volunteers, is positive and welcoming. I liked that the crop owner was present, talking about farming practices.”

“The family togetherness.”

“I love getting to know the growers, who feel this work is important.”

“My daughter and I spent some good quality time together, and she is still talking about the fun we had.”



Katherine Daniels at our very first harvest, July 2010

Meet a volunteer

Katherine Daniels has served as backyard harvest director since she helped found Salem Harvest in January 2010. She is a natural for the cause. Growing up in southern California, Katherine developed an early interest in conservation as she watched the surrounding orange groves get paved over. She has spent the last three decades preserving farmland around the country, and now serves as the Farm and Forest Lands Specialist with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Katherine’s interest in growing things started in her own backyard. She has a small but thriving vegetable garden, and some of the most beautiful roses in Salem. Thanks, Katherine, for sharing your organizational skills and enthusiasm.



Cherry Harvest, August 2011

Farewell to Salem Harvest's first project manager



Lisa Clark-Burnell has traded in the gray skies of Oregon for the beach in Carlsbad, Calif., where her husband Kelly has a new job and her three children chase the waves. One of the original founders of Salem Harvest, Lisa will take many warm memories with her. "I loved walking through the orchards hearing laughter floating over the rows, and snippets of English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Japanese," Lisa says.

She also cherished the opportunity to model the act of giving. "At one of our first blueberry harvests, we explained to our three-year old son that he could keep half of what he picked and donate half to people who didn't have enough food to eat," Lisa says. "He picked and picked and then dumped his entire little yogurt-container into the Food Share boxes, and returned to the fields to pick more donations. Few things have been more satisfying than seeing him learn the joy of giving."

Our thanks go to Lisa, for sharing her talents and passion as Salem Harvest's first project manager.

CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO SALEM HARVEST

The holidays are gone, but you can still [make a gift](#) to Salem Harvest, or make a donation in a friend's name. Your donation helps pay for harvest equipment, signage, software fees, liability insurance and more. We have no paid staff or office fees so all donations go directly toward our core mission – connecting people to fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste. Contact [Alicia Bay](#) for more information.

[SALEM HARVEST](#) connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteer pickers to harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. Half of each harvest is donated to Marion-Polk Food Share and other organizations that serve the hungry.

Our mission is to help create a compassionate community where neighbors can help neighbors in a spirit of goodwill, and where hungry families can gain self-sufficiency. Join us in a celebration of sustainability, and of our urban and rural bounty.

KUDOS to this year's awesome harvest leaders!

Amy Barr ▪ Alicia Bay ▪ Katherine Daniels ▪ Vanessa Demoe ▪ Rob Easton ▪ Amy Gillette ▪ Rachael Gleed ▪ Rebecca Greaves ▪ Melyssa Lloyd ▪ Brigit Miller ▪ Linda Pantalone ▪ Melody Parr ▪ Michelle Priddy ▪ Angela Rountree ▪ Roz Shirack ▪ Casey Sparks ▪ Haley Todd ▪ Dick Yates



THANK YOU 2011 SEASON DONORS!

A generous grant from the **Barbara Emily Knudson Charitable Foundation** helped make our harvests safer and more productive. Their gift enabled us to purchase sturdy aluminum orchard ladders, extension pole pickers and a trailer for transporting equipment.

We also want to thank the good folks at **Pringle Creek Community**, who graciously allowed us to store ladders, and to our **Pearmine Farms** friends, who provided orchard ladders for several harvests.

Many individuals made generous gifts, including **Nathan and Alicia Bay, Roz Shirack, Julie DeMarco, Dan Elmore, Dick Yates and Nadene LeCheminant, Michael Barr, Lia Denson and John Gear**. We appreciate **Chuck and Sharon Unser**, who successfully nominated us for a **Walmart** "Volunteerism Always Pays" grant.

Thanks to this year's crop donors: **Beilke Family Farms, Chuck & Cherie Bennett, Karen Blocksom, Arcile Boyes, Marion Bryson, Seth Cotlar, Judith Daugherty, Christie Edwards, Joan and Ken Erickson, Karen Ferge, Annenita Goudriaan, Susan Haylock, Macy Hays, Carl Jensen Farms, Renato and Maria Labate, Micayla Lally, Melyssa Lloyd, Micky Logan, Norman and Kay McDonald, Tanya Moore-Hamilton, Cindy Orendorff, Pearmine Farms, John Richardson, Carol Rush, Cathy Seckel, David Truitt, Kerry Vine, Veneeta vonDohlen, Cliff Winston, Vince Woods, Cheryl Zentz**

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Winter 2012