



Salem Harvest News

Summer 2012



All you wanted to know about Harvests

We receive many emails and comments on our [Facebook](#) page about harvests. Most volunteers want to know the difference between farm and backyard harvests, how harvests are planned and how they can help.

First, a property owner calls Salem Harvest to let us know they will have surplus crops. Many times, we are given just a few days notice. Then, a Salem Harvest scout surveys the site to determine how much produce is available, and how many pickers and harvests will be needed.

We plan the entire harvest – from parking, to check-in stations. There are several details to consider while organizing, and we are always mindful of protecting the grower's property.

Weather is another variable to consider. We have to know exactly

when produce will be ready, and temperature has a lot to do with determining ripeness of crops.

As soon as all of the details are determined for a harvest, we send an email to all registered volunteers announcing the harvest. For some smaller backyard harvests, we may not send a mass email because of how few pickers are needed. Keep an eye on the [Harvests page](#) for information about upcoming harvests.

We are always looking for volunteer harvest assistants and leaders to help with each harvest. Harvest assistants work one half-hour shift during the harvest to help with parking or donations. Harvest leaders are trained to help organize and run a harvest smoothly.

Contact [Melody](#) if you'd like more information about being a harvest assistant or leader for an upcoming harvest.

Whether a small backyard harvest of two apple trees, or a large farm harvest of blueberries, Salem Harvest's mission is constant. Our goal is to help hungry families become self-sufficient, build stronger communities, and celebrate sustainable lifestyles.

Thanks to the amazing support of wonderful property owners, growers, and thousands of volunteers, we are able to meet and exceed our goals with each harvest. Working together, we can help families have fresh fruit and vegetables in their homes and on their dinner tables.

Another Pumpkin Patch feeds those in need

With a name like [Another Pumpkin Patch](#), you'd think there isn't much that sets this pumpkin patch apart from the rest. But, Another Pumpkin Patch is very unique. Their goal is to help feed the hungry people in Oregon.

[Pearmine Farms](#) has contributed two acres to grow the pumpkins and ornamental gourds, as well as another three acres for the corn maze. Several varieties of pumpkins will be available, as well as a wide array of ornamental gourds, squash, and corn.

Another Pumpkin Patch opens October 1 and runs through Halloween. Pumpkins will be available for purchase, and prices range from 50 cents to \$6. A donation of two cans of food per person is admission to the corn maze. All proceeds will be donated to [Farmers Ending Hunger](#) and [Marion-Polk Food Share](#). Cash donations are also appreciated.



Photo courtesy of Pearmine Farms

In the news...

Have you seen us in the news? A wonderful [article](#) about Salem Harvest ran in the [Statesman Journal](#) in July.

Maybe you've spotted one of our [signs](#) around town? We've given each of our sponsors wonderful signs they can post to let others know they support Salem Harvest.

Perhaps you've even seen our advertisement in the [Oregon Farm Bureau](#) publication? We're getting the word out about Salem Harvest to hundreds of large growers in the Willamette Valley.

You can help spread the word. Become a [sponsor](#), or let others know about Salem Harvest. Contact [Alicia](#) for more information on how to get involved.

Stay Informed...

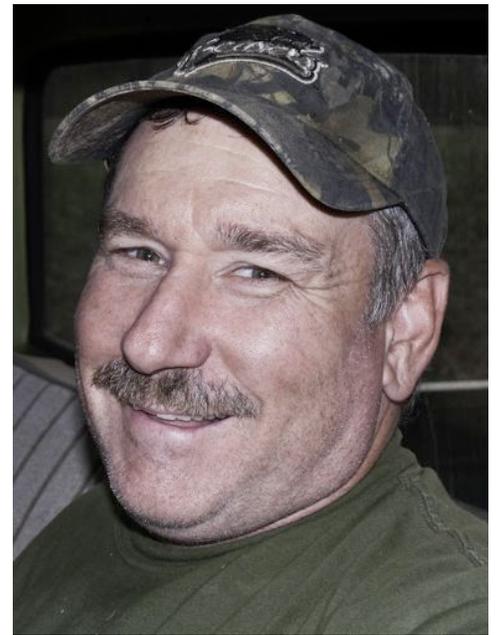
Get the latest news harvest details from Salem Harvest. Our Facebook page is a great way to stay connected with the latest happenings. The [Volunteer](#) page has all necessary information on harvests, volunteer training, and registration updates. The email you receive after signing up for a harvest is very important. Make sure you hang on to it so you can have all of the information about that harvest, or cancel your spot, if necessary.

*"First you give, and then you eat.
It tastes better that way."*

-Overheard at the Beilke Farms blueberry harvest,
August 2012.

Salem Harvest is an all- volunteer organization that relies on the enthusiasm of our volunteers to make harvests happen.

While we welcome your help during harvests, we are also always looking for people who want to help *prepare* for harvests. If you are interested in learning how to be more involved, contact [Melody](#) or [Alicia](#).



Mike Pantalone, Salem Harvest volunteer

Meet a volunteer

Mike Pantalone is usually found driving the Marion-Polk Food Share truck to and from each harvest. This is his second season working with Salem Harvest. His wife, Linda, began volunteering in 2011 and asked him to join her. After going to a cherry harvest, he was hooked.

"It touches my heart to be helping the community," says Pantalone. "It is an amazing feeling to be involved in a harvest and know that, in the next day or two, people that really can't afford to buy food, much less fresh fruit and vegetables, will be receiving freshly picked produce."

He loves that Salem Harvest is able to organize each harvest and coordinate everything with the growers and all of the pickers. "I just love being involved with a group of people that have this big desire to get food from fields to the people that are truly in need, rather than let it go to waste."



Apple Harvest, August 2012

2012 SEASON SPONSORS

Thank you to all of our sponsors. Click on the logos to visit their websites.



CONSIDER MAKING A GIFT TO SALEM HARVEST

You can [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 is an all-volunteer organization established in 2010. Our mission is to help hungry families gain self-sufficiency, build community, and celebrate sustainable lifestyles.

Salem Harvest connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteers who harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. More than half of each harvest is donated to the Marion-Polk Food Share or its affiliated food agencies.

Since 2010, Salem Harvest has harvested over 174,000 pounds of fresh, locally-grown fruits and vegetables were harvested at more than 170 harvests.



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