Merrymeeting Gleaners FAQs

What is Gleaning?
To collect surplus food from farmers’ fields and farmers’ markets and deliver it directly to food pantries and other local food security organizations to be consumed by those in need. This food would otherwise go to waste, leaving many additional people hungry and farmers with the burden of disposing of this waste.

Why do farmers have food left over in their fields?
- Bumper crops
- Imperfect produce that cannot be sold to grocery stores
- End of season surplus
- Too many crops ripening at the same time
- Too costly to harvest crops

Where does the gleaned food go after it is collected?
To local food pantries, soup kitchens, and housing sites – maybe even to people in your neighborhood!

What would happen to the food if it wasn’t gleaned?
The food would be plowed into the ground so the field can be used again in the same season or next season.

Who are the Merrymeeting Gleaners?
A group of volunteers who share a passion for food and a desire to close the gap between farms and hungry mouths in the Merrymeeting Bay area. These volunteers are part of the Merrymeeting Food Council and work together to combat food insecurity. The Merrymeeting Gleaners collected and redistributed 14,000 pounds since June 2016.

How much is 14,000 pounds?
Well, the average Tyrannosaurus Rex weighed 14,000 pounds. Imagine that much food NOT going to waste because of the hard work of gleaners and farmers in Mid Coast Maine.

How can I find out more about the Merrymeeting Gleaners?
If you represent a non-profit organization who would like to receive produce, anticipate having bountiful fields to glean, would like to get your hands “dirty” while picking produce, or would like to get involved in any other way, please contact merrymeetingfc@gmail.com. Learn more about the Merrymeeting Food Council at www.merrymeetingfoodcouncil.org.

December 2016 FAQs