



Oak Spring Garden Foundation's

Farmers for Food Relief Program

Request for Proposals: Local Farms Feeding Local Community

Regional food insecurity is a challenge that faces many people in Fauquier County at the best of times, but over the past few weeks, the coronavirus pandemic has placed increasing strain on their access to food. As levels of food insecurity across the region continue to rise, many food banks are scrambling to meet the growing demand for fresh, healthy produce.

Over the past six months, the newly established Biocultural Conservation Farm at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation has grown and donated over 6,000lbs of fresh produce to two local food banks: Seven Loaves (Middleburg), and the Fauquier Food Bank (Warrenton). We currently have hundreds of seedlings in our greenhouses, and our farm team is working hard to prepare for the upcoming growing season. This year, we are increasing our production, and we hope provide over 15,000 lbs. of vegetables to Fauquier County food banks.

We recognize that is a small contribution in the face of a large problem, and are looking for two local farms to help us support our local food banks, during this time of growing need. OSGF will contract with two farms to supply fruit and vegetables to the Fauquier County Food Bank in Warrenton, VA. In essence, OSGF will “purchase” produce from these farms, and ask that instead of delivering the food to us, that the farms directly supply the Fauquier County Food Bank. Payments will be made in bi-weekly installments following produce drop offs. The farms will be paid up to a total of \$5,000 for their contribution over the course of the growing season.

To be considered, interested farms must: have a proven track record of ecologically-sound and environmentally-friendly growing practices (organic certification is not a requirement.) They must also be able to produce between 2,000-3,000 lbs. (or more) of a variety of produce between the months of May and October. The farms will be responsible for making deliveries to the Fauquier County Food Bank.

We will begin reviewing applications on April 22nd and will continue reviewing on a rolling basis until two farms have been selected. Interested farms can [apply here](#) and/or reach out to Danielle Castellano at daniellec@osgf.org or (571) 236-3983.