

PRODUCE TO PANTRIES

Local Farms Feeding Local People

A Program of:



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CAE's Produce to Pantries (P2P) program was created in partnership with the Hardwick Area Food Pantry to increase the availability of fresh, local produce at area pantries while simultaneously supporting local farms. The program consciously tries to contract with farms within a 20 mile radius of the pantries they serve, are less than 5 acres in size, and which are led by new, young, femme, and/or non-white farmers as a way to counteract the systemic opportunities available to many larger, more established, male-owned, and/or white-owned operations.



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Our visitors have dealt with so much trauma from the flood this summer. People have described losing their homes or dealing with partial damages to their kitchens and bathrooms. The financial, physical, emotional, and mental strain on our participants changed the overall tenor of our open hours. I have watched participants with bags of fresh produce, on top of their box of commodity food, walk away feeling more supported by their community. I have watched seniors gasp and be so excited at the quality of the produce this year. So many of them lost their personal gardens to flooding and we were able to fill in the gap. It makes my work so much more gratifying.

This grant funding has provided us with the opportunity to purchase food locally week after week. The continued support provided stability that so many of our local producers needed, especially this year. The flooding devastated so many neighboring farms. The farmers we worked with, were beside themselves, sometimes showing up empty handed, and unsure of the future. I know that our continued support provided a source of hope where there was none.

- Stella James of the Hardwick Area Food Pantry, Hardwick, Albany & Craftsbury, VT



Photo by Elizabeth Rossano



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23 farms

sold produce to the Produce to Pantries program in 2023. Most of which were within an average 20 mile radius of the pantries they served.



Photo by Harvest Hill Farm

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As a local certified organic farmer, I value the P2P program, in Hardwick, managed by CAE. One of my goals as a farmer has always been getting fresh organic veggies to folks who haven't been able to have access to or be able to afford the cost. The P2P program does that for the community as well as giving me a consistent source of revenue at a fair wholesale price. The program is a win-win for all of us.

- Bill Half of Harvest Hill Farm, Walden, VT



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Photos by Sam Rowley

28,000+ lbs

of local, raw produce was purchased in 2023 and distributed among the Hardwick Area Food Pantries' 3 sites as well as the Holland Food shelf.



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4,000+ people



Photo by Elizabeth Rossano

accessed locally grown produce through the Program to Pantries program.

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This is awesome! All of the local food is what makes this food pantry the best.
Thank You!

-Produce to Pantries participant



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“ It's been really exciting to start working more closely with some of our local food pantries this year, including the Holland Food Pantry through the Produce to Pantries program. One of our goals as a farm is to find ways of making locally grown food accessible for more people in our community. Now heading into our third season, we're finding this to be a challenge for all sorts of reasons - economic, logistical, cultural etc. - but much of the difficulty stems from the fact that our food distribution systems generally are not designed to support small-scale, community-driven farming. In our context, in northeastern Vermont, we find that we need to fall back on direct marketing strategies that we implement ourselves to make things work for the farm. On the plus-side, this allows a small farm some insulation from an unfriendly (larger) market, but the unfortunate tradeoff is that fewer in the community are able to access the food we grow when we operate in this "alternative" space, whether that's because of cost of the food, lack of transportation, lack of time, or any number of other obstacles. Direct marketing is all well and good, and will likely continue to be part of our farm's system, but to continue working towards our goal of increasing access to local food, we need to find more ways of working in and with the community. Produce to Pantries represents a much-needed step in that direction, making it more feasible for small farms like ours to connect with a broader portion of the community through organized, working systems like local food pantries.

- Owen Tatum of Makeshift Farm, Derby, VT



Photo by Makeshift Farm



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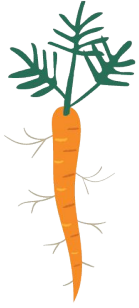
Photos by Elizabeth Rossano

\$50,000

spent on local produce for distribution at area pantries.



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Thank You

for your support of the Produce to Pantries program. The funds you generously supplied helped us invest in our community while getting more locally grown produce in front of more people.



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