

# Michigan Agricultural Surplus System (MASS)

A program of the Food Bank Council of Michigan

## History

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The Michigan Agricultural Surplus System (MASS) began in 1990 as a pilot partnership between the Food Bank Council of Michigan (FBCM) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA). With \$25,000 FBCM FBCM began purchasing Grade B produce from a small group of farmers – produce which was cosmetically challenged, without a market, and which would have gone to waste – and distributing it to those in need through the emergency food bank network.

In the past 3 years, MASS has assisted over 150 farms, including numerous farm cooperatives, keeping many productive in times of duress.

## MASS Funding & Participation

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- Participating farms (FY13): 27
- Participating food banks: 10 (7 direct recipients, 3 sub-recipients)

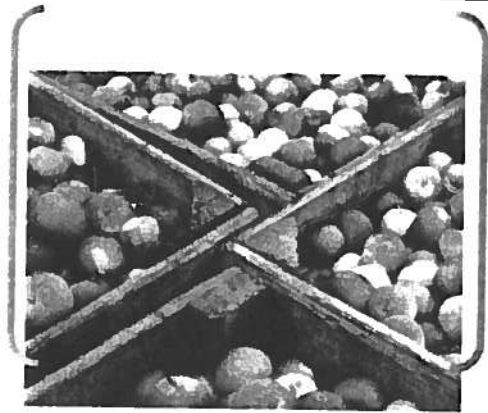
## MASS Outcomes, Efficiencies & Human Impact

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Total Pounds (FY13) 7,800,000

Produce varieties (FY13):

Apples	Corn	Potatoes
Apricots	Cucumbers	Pumpkins
Cabbage	Onions	Squash
Carrots	Peaches	Tomatoes
Collard Greens	Peppers	Watermelon



## How MASS Works

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1. Grower contacts FBCM when surplus or B-grade product becomes available.
2. FBCM assesses product demand and usability in the food bank network.
3. FBCM and grower agree on harvest date and if necessary, FBCM arranges for the transportation of product to a regional food bank.
4. Product is delivered to regional food banks.
5. Regional food banks distribute to local pantries, soup kitchens, and churches.
6. Food is given to Michigan families who are hungry.

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# Michigan Farm to Food Bank (MFFB)

## HOW MFFB WORKS

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Michigan Farm to Food Bank is a new and innovative program of the Food Bank Council of Michigan. This program is unique and pioneering as it ensures Michigan-grown, farm-fresh food is consistently available to state food banks. The program was an incredible experiment in community food security that injected dollars into local agricultural communities by supporting farmers who dedicated a portion of their acreage to grow food for people in need in communities in which farmers live.

By contracting in advance of the growing season with farms that are located within 50-100 miles of our food bank distribution facilities, this program ensures that our clients are receiving the freshest “pick of the crop” produce, thus honoring dignity of our clients but also reducing the vulnerability of fuel prices and food miles by reducing the mileage from farm to food bank.



## WHY SUPPORT MFFB

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- In 2013, the program distributed over 1.6 million pounds of Michigan fresh produce.
- Permitted culturally specific foods to be grown for clients.

The Food Bank Council of Michigan and its member food banks believe that all people, regardless of personal circumstances, should have access to wholesome, nutritious, fresh food. Michigan Farm to Food Bank ensures that Michigan can continue to feed Michigan by leveraging the agricultural bounty of our beautiful state and growing communities.

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