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Food rescue at farms leads to more local produce at Food Bank this summer

Duquesne, PA (August 9, 2021)- The weather is bringing in decent harvests for farmers this year, which means more local produce at Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

In the summer and fall, the Food Bank works with local farmers to rescue fresh produce that would otherwise get tilled back into the soil.

“There’s always corn out there that we say isn’t sellable. It’s certainly edible, but it’s just not perfect. So that’s what the gleaning process does. It comes in and gets that stuff that’s leftover in the field after I get what I can sell,” said Art King of Harvest Valley Farms.

The process of rescuing produce from fields is called gleaning.

The Food Bank has already participated in four gleans this year at local farms including Harvest Valley Farms in Gibsonia, bringing the produce back to the Food Bank to distribute to those in need.

King estimated there was about 80 dozen ears of corn left in the field that would have gone to waste without the partnership with the food bank.

The Food Bank expects to do 1-3 gleans per week for the next 20 weeks.

The Food Bank distributed 12 million pounds of produce last year.

VIDEO- Glean at Harvest Valley Farms in Gibsonia

SOUNDBITE:

Art King of Harvest Valley Farms

Lori Diefenbacher with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank