



Resources for Food Donation

According to Hunger Free Vermont, 13% of Vermont Households are food Insufficient. There are food pantries that are located throughout the state that happily accept food that is “too good to waste”. The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act allows food producers and establishments to donate wholesome food to non-profit organizations without liability. Below are links to local and national organizations that help alleviate hunger through food donation.

The Vermont Food Bank connects hungry Vermonters with wholesome food. The Vermont Food Bank can help you determine what and how you can donate food. For a complete list of all the food pantries in Vermont, visit their website.

- [Vermont Food Bank- Food Donation Information](#)

National Food Donation Organizations

- [Ample Harvest](#)
- [Feeding America](#)

Food Labeling and Handling

In order to donate food, your business will need to follow the proper guidelines on labeling and handling of food.

- DEC: Donating Food Safely (copy and paste into browser)
 - http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wmp/SolidWaste/Documents/UniversalRecycling/VT_DonatingFoodSafely_final.pdf
- [Food Recovery and Donation- USDA](#)
- [Food Labeling- Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic](#)
- [ServeSafe-Food Handling Guidelines](#)

Legal guide for food recovery

There are always questions about liability when it comes to donating food. To find out more about the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, visit the links below. In summary, those who donate food to a non-profit organization are free of criminal/civil liability, unless there is evidence of intentional misconduct or gross negligence.

- [UARK Law School- Legal Guide to Food Recovery](#)
- [Harvard Legal Breakdown of Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act](#)

- [Food Recovery Legal Breakdown- Feeding America](#)
- [Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act](#)
- [VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 12 § 5762 \(1983\)](#). Title: Liability for canned or perishable foods or farm products distributed free of charge. This law protects a donor who donates any canned or perishable food or farm product to a charitable or nonprofit organization for free distribution from criminal or civil liability arising from the condition of the food, except in cases that the “donor has actual or constructive knowledge that the food is adulterated, tainted, contaminated or harmful to the health or well-being of the person consuming said food.”
- [VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 12 § 5793 \(1997\)](#). Title: Liability limited. This law protects an owner from liability for property damage or personal injury sustained by a person who enters the owner’s land for a “recreational use,” including “gleaning” as defined by law, except in cases of willful or wanton misconduct of the owner.

Tax deductions for donating food

Not only will your business be able to feel good about helping to reduce hunger in Vermont, you can receive tax deductions for the food that you donate.

- [Food Donation Tax Benefits- Food to Donate](#)

Resources for Food Donation to Animals

Vermont allows and encourages food scraps to be donated to feed animals. Local farms in your area may be interested in your food scraps to use as animal feed. Please read the swine feeding policies before donating food scraps to pigs.

VT Agency of Natural Resources: Swine Feeding Policies

- <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/VAAF%20Policy%20on%20Swine%20Garbage%20Feeding%20March%2028.pdf> (Copy and paste into browser)

Feeding compost to chickens can reduce feed costs and the chickens will produce better eggs. Check out how to have a chicken powered compost below!

- [Feeding Food Scraps to Hens- Compost Association of Vermont](#)