



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

October 10, 2024

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo
President of the Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
The Office of the President
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear President Passidomo:

The following is a report on the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Food Recovery Program, as required by Section 595.420, Florida Statutes.

The Food Recovery Program is a unique public-private partnership designed to assist the state's nonprofit feeding organizations with locating surplus fruits and vegetables, coordinating transportation and storage, and distributing the surplus produce to families and individuals in need.

- **Farm Share, Inc.**, a nonprofit organization, recovers food from farms, wholesalers and other groups, and delivers surplus fresh fruits and vegetables to communities in need. The surplus produce recovered by Farm Share is transported to drop sites strategically located throughout Florida, including state farmer's markets and other easily accessible locations, for distribution to nonprofit food banks, food pantries and when possible, directly to individuals. As of June 30, 2024, Farm Share received \$6,500,000.00 in state funds and had distributed approximately over 22.9 million pounds of surplus produce to individuals and families in need in Florida.
- **Feeding Florida**, a nonprofit organization, works with 9-member food banks, supporting an infrastructure of approximately 2,400 nonprofit agencies, providing assistance in every county in Florida. Farmers Feeding Florida, the food recovery program established by Feeding Florida, works in partnership with the department, growers, and packers in Florida to distribute surplus produce. Donated fruits and vegetables are collected and delivered to the member food banks that, in turn, redistribute the produce to individuals and families in need throughout the state. As of June 30, 2024, Feeding Florida received \$6,500,000.00 and by combining state funds and private donations was able to recover over 51 million pounds of fresh Florida produce.

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo

October 10, 2024

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The funds received from the Legislature for the Food Recovery Program were utilized for expenses related to the collection, packaging, storage, and transportation for surplus produce distributed by these organizations.

Pursuant to Section 595.420(7), Florida Statutes, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has developed a public information brochure detailing the need and benefit of food recovery programs; the manner in which organizations may become involved in food recovery programs; and the protection afforded to such programs under Florida Statute, Section 768.136. The brochure also provides information about organizations that have indicated to the department their interest in the Food Recovery Program and the types of foods they are able to recover. A copy of this year's brochure is attached for your reference. It may also be found online by clicking [here](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Herman McBride, Chief of Supplemental Food Programs, at (850) 617-7168.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vianka Colin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Vianka Colin
Director

Attachment

cc: Wilton Simpson, Commissioner of Agriculture



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

October 10, 2024

The Honorable Paul Renner, Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Speaker Renner:

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Sincerely,



Vianka Colin
Director

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cc: Wilton Simpson, Commissioner of Agriculture