NH Gleans is a network of organizations working to increase the availability of fresh and local produce that is distributed to and through NH food pantries, soup kitchens, community suppers and schools. To do this, NH Gleans harvests produce from local farms and farmers markets that would otherwise have not been harvested or sold and distributes the food to organizations that can use it. Established in 2013 with a generous gift through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation’s You Have Our Trust fund, NH Gleans employs gleaning coordinators across the state to work with farms and organizations during the growing season. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, over 308,000 pounds of fresh produce has been gleaned and distributed over the last four years to the people in New Hampshire who most need it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gleaning Region</th>
<th>Lead Organization</th>
<th>Pounds Gleaned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belknap</td>
<td>Belknap County Conservation District</td>
<td>5,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire</td>
<td>The Community Kitchen, Inc.</td>
<td>41,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>Hillsborough County Conservation District</td>
<td>32,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrimack</td>
<td>Merrimack County Conservation District</td>
<td>13,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Country</td>
<td>Taproot Farm &amp; Environmental Education Center</td>
<td>1,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seacoast</td>
<td>NH Farm to School, Seacoast Eat Local, NOFA NH</td>
<td>7,914</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights

- Merrimack and Belknap gleaning coordinators collaborated with Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Center senior centers (five in Merrimack County, four in Belknap County) to supply freshly gleaned food that was incorporated into hot meals at centers as well as given to patrons to take home.
- Partnership with UNH Cooperative Extension Nutrition Connections allowed gleaned food to reach more families through cooking classes. UNH Cooperative Extension provided MCCD with customized recipes for commonly gleaned items that were distributed at donation sites.
- Continued partnership with Colby-Sawyer enabled students to glean over 1,000 pounds of potatoes at Spring Ledge Farm in New London, NH.
• Collaborated with Greater Franklin HEAL Coalition to provide gleaned produce for their harvest boxes.

• Concord Monitor featured an article about NH Gleans and members of their staff joined a glean at Work Song Farm in Hopkinton, NH.

• Organized a glean for United Way’s Day of Caring in September where a group of seven volunteers from local businesses gleaned apples at Hackleboro Orchards in Canterbury, NH.

• Organized volunteer event for AmeriCorps Service Day in March where volunteers created posters for gleaning.

**Stories**

The big story for the gleaning program is the new website, [NHGleans.org](http://NHGleans.org). The new site allows for volunteers to register, farms to input gleaning opportunities, and coordinators to schedule gleans and input information about gleaning. The website sorts information by region and by state, allowing us to gather better data. The site also generates a tax deduction letter for each farm that donates, listing all donations from that farm. We plan to train others to use the site as a way to collect additional food donation data to get a better picture of donations around the state.

NH Gleans is grateful to Dick Yates for creating the website free of charge and training the gleaning coordinators to use it.
Program Success

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Volunteers:</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms:</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Recipient Org.:</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Pounds Gleaned:</td>
<td>28,864</td>
<td>65,094</td>
<td>109,685</td>
<td>101,888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Crops
- Summer Squash
- Cucumbers
- Tomatoes
- Apples
- Potatoes
- Winter Squash
- Corn
- Lettuce
- Kale
- Sweet potatoes

Top Donating Farms
- Brookdale Fruit Farm
- Picadilly Farm
- Cheshire Fairgrounds Farm
- New Dawn Farm
- Middle Branch Farm
- Spring Ledge Farm
- Rosaly’s Garden

Media Coverage
- “TCK’s Gleaning Program”. The Community Kitchen.

2017 Program Goals
- Meet or exceed the pounds of food gleaned in 2016 season
- Increase the number of participating farms & food donation sites
- Increase the amount of collected food donation data
- Provide cooking and nutrition education to food pantries and their clients with the help of UNH Nutrition Connections program
- Work with the NH Food Bank to increase direct farm to food pantry donations
- Train farmers and food pantries to enter data into NH Gleans website

Many times at donation sites my presence was announced with “It’s the Vegetable Lady!” from both pantry managers and clients, which always made me smile. It was usually followed by a rush of offers to help me carry in any additional food. People were always excited to hear where the produce came from and marveled at its freshness. Often, it would spark conversation about different recipes and recollections of childhood favorites using that particular food item.

- Alyssa Lemmerman, Merrimack County gleaning coordinator