



## Gleaning Program Volunteer Packet

### What is Gleaning?

Operated by CROS Ministries, in partnership with the Palm Beach County Food Bank and other food distribution agencies, gleaning is a food recovery strategy that allows produce that is below market grade or unmarketable, but equally nutritious and beneficial to be harvested and distributed to the food insecure of Palm Beach and Martin Counties instead of being plowed back into the soil.

Since people live apart from where their food is grown gleaning requires volunteers who will bridge the gap between the field and the pantry to bring food to locations where persons in need can receive it. Farmers donate produce they cannot sell to CROS ministries. Volunteers gather the produce. It is taken to the Food Bank for distribution to local agencies with feeding programs for low-income individuals, families and homeless persons. The food is given away free of charge.

#### Gleaning – Biblical References

Gleaning as a practice to combat hunger is thousands of years old. The people most likely to be hunger victims during the times of the Hebrew Scriptures were widows, orphans and people traveling through the land called Sojourners.

*“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God.”* (Leviticus 19:9-10) other references include Deuteronomy 24:19-22 & Ruth 2:2ff.



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### What is New for the 2018-2019 Season

1. New Start Time. To beat the heat we will plan on being in the field and ready to go at 8:30 am. Events will conclude at 11:30 am.
2. Gleaning in the Glades moves from Tuesdays to Thursdays. Every Thursday morning is an opportunity for gleaners 13 years of age or older to glean in Belle Glade. Events start at 8:30 and conclude at 11:30. You must pre-register for these events.
3. Community service hours will be four hours an event. With the multitude of opportunities most people's commute time to field is 30 minutes instead of an hour.
4. Redesigned waiver form.

## THINGS TO DO BEFORE GLEANING

1. Email the gleaning program director to indicate the date you desire to glean, or sign up on line. Let them know if you are bringing a group, your family or just yourself. You will receive a reply indicating you are registered for that date. Be sure to include a cell phone # so we can get in touch with you for weather cancellations.
2. All gleaners need to review Rules and Helpful Hints themselves and with their group.
3. Complete the “Gleaner’s Form” in this packet for **each gleaner** and bring to the gleaning site. Give them to the field supervisor at the gleaning site who is collecting them. You will need a gleaning form every time you come and glean with us.
4. Arrange car pool to the field. (Parking space is often limited).
5. Bring water for yourself and/or group.
6. Review helpful hints again the day before the gleaning.

Be sure to stress with your group/family that there are **no absolute guarantees** that you will be able to glean on the day that you have chosen. You, like the farmers, are depending on the weather and growing conditions of the season. CROS Ministries arranges for gleaning dates during the harvest time when it is most likely that there will be produce available for gleaning. Regrettably dry or wet weather may affect the availability and condition of the produce. Rain on the day of or the days immediately preceding the planned gleaning may cause the field to be too wet.

## RULES FOR GLEANERS

1. **When gleaning, remember you are on another person’s property.** Treat it better than your own property. (Make sure you are leaving no water bottles, candy wrappers, etc.). We are guests, please don’t abuse the privilege, or we may lose it.
2. Every gleaner must fill out the enclosed Gleaner Form. **All gleaners under 18 years of age must have the waiver signed by their parents.**
3. **In the field the field supervisor is in charge.** Follow his/her instructions and directions completely. They are there to protect your safety, the safety of the produce and to protect the property owner’s interest. Glean only in those areas designated by the field supervisor.
4. **Children 10 and under must be supervised** by parents or other responsible adults. **Children under 6 must** be within arm’s reach of a responsible adult at all times.
5. Safety is of utmost important in gleaning. **If any activity is questionable do not do it.** Such safety practices include:
  - Do not climb trees or fences.
  - Do not ride on the back of moving vehicles.
  - Stay away from farm machinery, canals and roadways.The field supervisor can cancel a gleaning at any time if he/she feels these rules are not being followed.
6. No pets please, it is not safe for them and a violation of food safety practices.

## HELPFUL HINTS

1. It is often good to dress in layers. In the morning it is likely to be colder and damp, wearing a long sleeve shirt and long pants are recommended. As it gets warmer a short sleeve shirt may be better. Closed toed shoes are required. No flip flops or open toed or heel shoes are permitted.
2. In cornfields long pants are needed. Leaves from the corn stalks are sharp and can cut the skin.
3. It is recommended that all gleaners wear gloves and hats in the field, apply sunscreen and have bug spray handy in case insects are an issue.
4. Bathroom facilities are unavailable in most gleaning fields; it is advisable to use the bathroom prior to coming to the field.
5. A three to five gallon pail with a handle is an excellent container to carry through the field. Fill it and empty it into the packing box or bin.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**When will I know where we are gleaning?** The growers notify CROS at the beginning of the week what field they might have available for gleaning the upcoming weekend. The gleaning director then travels to the field usually on Tuesday to map out directions. It is our goal to send out directions by Tuesday afternoon. If field directions are going to be delayed you will be notified.

**Can I choose where we glean?** We pick what is ready to be picked where it is ready to be picked. We offer suggestions about what is likely to be in season at certain locations, but on a specific weekend we have to get what is ready for harvest or lose it. We understand if you need something close to your residence and we do try to accommodate you. We also need volunteers who are willing to be inconvenienced and go the extra mile to get what would otherwise be lost. We hope you rise to that challenge.



**Are there bathrooms at the field?** In most instances, no.

**What are the times?** We glean from 8:30 am until 11:30 am. We quit early if we have filled the capacity of the box truck.

# Gleaner's Liability Waiver for 2018-2019 Gleaning Season

Please complete and bring to the field with you each time you glean.

**REQUIRED:** In the event I or my child suffer any illness or accident requiring emergency or hospitalization, medication or surgery while participating in this gleaning, on the recommendation of the doctor, after consultation with the adults in charge of this event, I hereby give my permission for any medical treatment which may deem necessary and reasonable under the circumstances, understanding that the gleaning coordinator or other responsible person will contact me at the earliest possible moment. I fully understand and comprehend that reasonable care will be exercised by the adult staff for this gleaning event to protect the safety of those involved.

Photos, videos, audio and other images in which I appear that are taken during gleanings may be used by CROS Ministries for news coverage, newsletters, publicity, reports, displays, and for other print, broadcast, web or electronic news or promotional purposes.

Safety is of paramount importance in a gleaning event. For the protection of all involved, this disclaimer is necessary: I do not hold the board members or employees of CROS Ministries, Palm Beach County Food Bank, or any volunteers liable for any injury, bodily harm, accident or death of myself/my child during gleaning events sponsored by CROS Ministries. Neither will I hold the person(s) who own and/or operate the farm(s), business, plant, orchards, groves or the homeowner who owns the backyard, from which we glean, liable for accidents, injury, or death during the gleaning events.

For events at Agri-Gators, Inc. the following also applies: Safety is of paramount importance in a gleaning event. For the protection of all involved, this disclaimer is necessary: I do not hold the person(s) who own and/or operate the farm(s), or employees of Agri-Gators, or any volunteers liable for any injury, bodily harm, accident or death of myself/my child during gleaning events.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
*Print*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*Gleaner*

**If Gleaner is under 18 Parent must sign below**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/guardian if gleaner is under 18 years of age*

## Notify in Case of Emergency

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Conditions or Drug Allergies:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Optional Information

I would like community service hours for this event. You must provide an email address below.  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to receive weekly notification of gleaning events for the 2018-2019 season.  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

