

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

CAMPAIGNERS CALL ON PEOPLE TO HELP THEM SAVE FOOD WASTE FROM FARMS FOR CHARITY

Food waste campaigning organisation, Feedback's [Gleaning Network](#), is calling on young people around the UK to join them on farms to harvest fruit and vegetables that would normally go to waste. Feedback redistribute this delicious, nutritious produce to charities which work to fight food poverty, like [FoodCycle](#), [FareShare](#) and homeless hostels.

To find out about gleans coming up in their region, or around the UK, volunteers should [sign up to join Gleaning Network's gleaning list](#).

Gleaning has been building momentum in the UK, with over 3 million portions of fruit and veg saved from going to waste across 118 gleaning days since its start in 2012. Volunteers of all ages are welcome at gleaning days, but the project is especially appealing to 18-24 year olds to get involved.

Martin Bowman, UK Gleaning Coordinator, said: "Going gleaning is a great day out in the countryside – volunteers go away knowing they've saved tonnes of food from going to waste, and that food will provide 10,000s of portions of food for those in need. Get stuck in and join us in the fields!"

Gleaning volunteer Anita Gwynn said "I learnt a lot about food waste. I enjoyed meeting new people. It was a great day! I came home exhilarated and feeling healthy!"

Please if possible include a link to Gleaning Network UK's sign up form in any media coverage:
<http://feedbackglobal.org/gleaning-volunteer-form/>

For further information, interviews or pictures please contact Martin Bowman

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NOTES TO EDITORS

FEEDBACK'S GLEANING NETWORK - Further Information

- From 2012 to 2015, the Gleaning Network gleaned over 188 tonnes of fruit and vegetables, equal to well over 2 million portions of fruit and veg, with over 1000 volunteers across 99 gleaning days. On one gleaning day in 2015, over 10 tonnes of parsnips were saved from going to waste.
- Food is often wasted on farms because of being rejected for being the wrong size, shape or colour, because of overproduction for fear of being delisted by supermarkets in cases of undersupply, and because of last minute order cancellations.
- Feedback's Gleaning Network UK currently has hubs in the North West (Lancashire), Bristol, West England, Sussex, East England (Cambridgeshire, South Lincolnshire and Norfolk), London and Kent.
- 'Gleaning' is an ancient practice dating back to biblical times and was practiced across Europe in the middle ages. It consists of gathering any remaining crop left in the fields after harvest.
- For more info on Gleaning Network UK: <http://feedbackglobal.org/campaigns/gleaning-network/>

FOODCYCLE – Further Information

- [FoodCycle](#) are a national charity that uses surplus food to cook three-course nutritious tasty meals for people at risk of food poverty and loneliness. Volunteers and guests sit down together to share a meal – and for many guests, this is the one chance they have each week to eat with and have a conversation with others.
- Sign up to volunteer with FoodCycle here: <http://foodcycle.org.uk/get-stuck-in/volunteer/>
- For more info on FoodCycle, see: <http://foodcycle.org.uk/>

FOOD WASTE – Further Information

- All the world's nearly one billion hungry people could be lifted out of malnourishment on less than a quarter of the food that is wasted in the US, UK and Europe.¹ If food waste was a country, it would be the third largest emitter of carbon emissions after China and the US.

FOOD POVERTY – Further Information

- Food poverty is on the rise in the UK, with 8.4 million people, the equivalent of the entire population of London, struggling to afford to eat².

FARM TO FORK – Further Information

- Feedback's [Gleaning Network](#) has teamed up with [FoodCycle](#) on an exciting new project called [From Farm to Fork](#)³. The project will train more than 4,000 young people to reclaim surplus food through gleaning, and then cook this food for vulnerable people with FoodCycle.
- **Our Bright Future** aims to tackle three big challenges facing society today – a lack of social cohesion, a lack of opportunities for young people and vulnerability to climate change. Thirty-one youth-led projects across the UK are each receiving around £1m of funding to give young people the skills and knowledge to improve their local environments.
- **Our Bright Future** is run by a consortium of eight organisations which is led by The Wildlife Trusts: Centre for Sustainable Energy, The Conservation Volunteers, Field Studies Council, Plunkett Foundation, vInspired, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and UpRising. Collectively they have more than 40 years of combined experience in managing social and environmental grant programmes totalling nearly £300 million, and proven successes working with and empowering young people within communities of all social circumstances.
- **The Wildlife Trusts** incorporates 47 individual Wildlife Trusts covering the whole of the UK. All are working for an environment rich in wildlife for everyone. We have more than 800,000 members including 150,000 members of our junior branch [Wildlife Watch](#). Our vision is to create [A Living Landscape](#) and secure [Living Seas](#).
- **The Big Lottery Fund** is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It puts people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects. It is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Every year it invests over £650 million and awards around 12,000 grants across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes. Since June 2004 it has awarded over £9 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people. Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £34 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.

REFERENCES

¹ <http://www.tristramstuart.co.uk/foodwastefacts/>

² <http://www.sustainweb.org/news/voicesofthehungry/>

³ <http://feedbackglobal.org/farm-to-fork/>