

HARVEST FOR ALL

HANDBOOK

2024-2025



WHO IS INVOLVED?

In 2002, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Committee implemented Harvest for All – a program that focuses on fighting food insecurity in our communities through food, friends, and funds which has grown to include community service endeavors of all kinds. Today, the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders (members ages 18-35) spearhead this initiative in our state and partner with FFA and Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters to maximize their reach. Illinois FFA and Collegiate Farm Bureau awards and recognition are sponsored by Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each year, there are two tracking periods to best align with school semesters and our reporting dates to AFBF. (May 1st-December 31st & January 1st-April 30th) During this tracking period chapters record pounds of food donated, dollars raised, and hours volunteered. At the beginning of each tracking period, IFB staff will provide a form for chapters to submit their calculations over the course of the semester. These calculations contribute to our overall reach, and then our Young Leaders compete against other state farm bureaus for awards with our collective state total.

WHERE CAN WE DONATE?

We want you to donate to your communities! Whether you have a collection box in your hallways, want to donate to a regional food bank, volunteer at a local shelter, make a meal at the Ronald McDonald house or fill a local need, you can serve your neighbors and community members in whatever ways you see fit.

WHY DOES THE HARVEST FOR ALL PROGRAM EXIST?

To demonstrate the generosity of Illinois agriculture by serving those in your local community who need it most.

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE?

May 1, 2024 – Tracking begins for summer/fall semester. IFB staff sends out a form to record pounds of food donated, dollars raised, and hours volunteered.

December 31, 2024– Tracking ends for summer/fall semester.

January 1, 2025 – The tracking form is due to IFB staff. These calculations are added to any Young Leader efforts thus far and turned in with other YL totals in February as well as tracking begins for spring semester.

February 2025 – Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader totals due to AFBF. (Includes Y&C spring 2024 and fall 2024 totals)

March 7-11, 2025 – Harvest for All Awards presented at AFBF YF&R/FUSION Conference.

April 30th, 2025 - The tracking form is due to IFB staff. These calculations are added to any Young Leader efforts thus far and turned in with other YL totals in February 2026.

May 1, 2025 – Tracking ends for spring semester and the form is due to IFB staff. Final results are announced after final numbers are submitted and the new Harvest for All year collection starts.

June 10-12, 2025 – Winners are recognized at the State FFA Convention.

POTENTIAL IDEAS

- Fill a Ford, partner with your county Farm Bureau YL group and/or other businesses
- Raffle – sell raffle tickets for a unique prize, the monetary donations go towards a food bank
- If you have a greenhouse and grow produce, donate it.
- Use a portion of your officer retreat or chapter meeting to volunteer at a food bank or doing another community service project.
- Have non-perishable food brought in at each chapter meeting and donated.
- If your FFA chapter participates in an FFA Acquaintance Day, suggest volunteering as part of the agenda or host your own event.

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

- Schedule the activity in conjunction with a popular event, such as a county or state fair, local sporting event, rodeo, Farm Bureau conference, etc.
- Consider providing a giveaway item or prize in order to increase participation. For example, give a Farm Bureau t-shirt to the first 50 people who donate a non-perishable food item or have them enter their name into a raffle for a prize.
- Reach out to local businesses to sponsor your activity or work with your County Farm Bureau(s) to do something together. This could involve donating prizes or giveaway items. For example, you could team up with a local dealership to “fill the truck” with donated food.
- More ideas: 5K run/walk, t-shirt sales, bake sale, raffle, or golf tournament.
- The activity can also be as simple as a service project at a local food charity. Most food charities appreciate any extra help to help with stocking shelves, packing boxes, or distributing foods.
- If you plan to donate food, contact your local food charity to find out what food items they will accept and to coordinate the delivery of the donation to their facility. A representative of the food charity may also want to attend your event.
- Most importantly, be creative and have fun!

WHAT RECOGNITION IS PROVIDED?

Section & overall winners are recognized annually at the State FFA Convention and monetary prizes are provided to the 1st-5th place overall winners to continue funding their Harvest for All efforts. 1st place gets \$200, and it goes down \$25 each placing.

QUESTIONS?

Email youth@ilfb.org with additional questions or if you would like to be connected with local or state staff.

2024-2025

TRACKING FORM

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/FFAH4ALL](https://bit.ly/FFAH4ALL)

DUE: JAN 1ST & MAY 1ST

