

FARMERS AGAINST HUNGER  
YEAR END REPORT FOR FARM BUREAU

Despite unfavorable weather conditions for much of 2009 Farmers Against Hunger had one of its best years to date with record donations of produce from farms. This was due in large part to a very busy fall and excellent crops of apples, potatoes, sweet potatoes and greens. By the end of the year farmers had made donations of fresh produce in excess of 500,000 lbs. Non-farm donations from grocery stores and other sources totaled over 600,000 lbs., bringing the grand total of produce and other goods collected and distributed to nearly 1.2 million pounds. This produce was delivered to hunger-relief organizations throughout much of New Jersey including soup kitchens, churches with a meal or pantry program, and the majority of the state's food banks.

The demand for help from nearly all recipient organizations rose dramatically in 2009. Fortunately so did donations from farmers and we are happy to add several new donor farms to the program including Cheesequake Farms, Profeta Farms, Lone Wolf Farm, Pleasant Hill Farm and Eastlack Farm. Although the program is supported in part by non-farm sources, the focus of Farmers Against Hunger has always been on fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables from NJ farms.

Continued program growth has put a strain on the program's two trucks, and if weather cooperates this year Farmers Against Hunger will be in need of a third truck during the busy harvest months of July through October. The ideal truck would be a box truck holding between 6 – 10 pallets of produce. Refrigeration would be a plus, but not required. If you know of a "spare" truck that would be available during this time please call Judy Grignon at 609 462-9691.

As always we say Thank You to our donor farmers who are the backbone of this program. Your donations are appreciated more than we can express.