LIONS GLEANING HUB

WHAT IS GLEANING?

A term used to describe collecting and redistributing perfectly edible and nutritious fruit and vegetables from farms and orchards that would otherwise be surplus.

Since 2012, Feedback's Gleaning Network has worked with 60 farmers, 3,000 volunteers and numerous charities to rescue over 500 tonnes of fruits and vegetables.

WHY DO WE NEED TO GLEAN?

Feedback's research has found that farmers are unable to use around 16% of their crop before it even leaves the field or barn – often due to factors beyond their control, such as produce not being the right shape or size for supermarket tastes, cancelled orders or poor weather.

Gleaning ensures that some of this edible food surplus is redistributed to those that need it. This isn't just a hunger issue; it's an environmental issue too. It's estimated that for every 1 tonne of food waste diverted from landfill, 0.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide is saved from entering the atmosphere. If food waste was a country, it would be the third highest carbon dioxide emitter after China and the USA.

WHAT DO FARMERS THINK?

I was very happy to help this year as adverse weather has meant that a good proportion of the crop did not get picked.
I was pleasantly surprised to see such a willing band of Lions volunteers turn up at the agreed time, (in atrocious conditions) for the gleaning.
I was heartened to see the crop going to some very good causes, across the country, and is certainly a better option to ploughing in the surplus crop.
Paddy Ivens, Hill Farm

Being a pumpkin farmer in 2019 was not easy and it was devastating to see our hard work left in the ground! It was a massive silver lining being able to help soup kitchens by donating our produce. The gleaning team and process has been easy from start to finish and we feel proud and happy that we have been able to support and feed those who need it. We would encourage other farmers to help the gleaning team with excess produce any day!
Emily French, Foxes Farm Produce

GLEANING AND LIONS

Lions Clubs International (LCI) have set up the Lions Gleaning Hub as part of the Gleaning Network for their members and local communities to get involved.

LCI is the world's largest voluntary service organisation. Our mission statement is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

Our five global causes are Diabetes, Environment, Hunger, Childhood Cancer and Vision so gleaning helps to address both hunger and the environment.

For more information on gleaning, visit gleaning.feedbackglobal.org

To find your nearest Lions Club, visit directory.lionsclubs.org