

# Fresh from the Fields

A FARM TO FOODBANK NEWSLETTER

## Sharing Food

- **6,184 lbs.** purchased from **9 MoCo Farms**
- Supported **9 Food Assistance Providers (FAPs)**
- Directed **3,878 lbs. of winter squash** to **10 School-Based pantries**
- Most purchased item: **3,878 lbs. of butternut and spaghetti squash**

## 2024 Recap

2024 was quite the year for Farm to Food Bank! Let's take a moment to look back on some great memories.

- **Future Harvest Annual Conference:** In January, the Food Resources team shared with conference attendees the evolution and current status of the Montgomery County Farm to Food Bank program.
- **Healthcare Initiative Foundations' Emerging Needs Grant** funded 3 MoCo farmers with contract growing initiatives. This year, the participating farmers provided **19,544 lbs of produce to 3 FAPs.**
- **The Wallace Center's Food Systems Leadership Network Activation Grant** provided Manna with funds to facilitate 5 farm visits around Montgomery County, focusing on **culturally considerate crops being grown locally.**
- In partnership with the **Office of Food Systems Resilience**, Manna rolled out a **collaborative funding initiative.** By mid-August, 10 farms were awarded various funds for farm operations, with goals of paying back the funds with local food items.

All of this and more! We can't wait for 2025 and to continue supporting the incredibly hard work you are doing!



## Upcoming Events

- **Friday, February 7th:** Mini MoCo Farmers Conference at One Acre Farm (9am - 4:30pm)
- **Friday, February 21st:** Annual MoCo Producers' Forum at the Ag History Farm Park (10am - 2pm)
- **April 7th - April 13th:** National Food Waste Prevention Week

## Seeking

**Greenway Farms** in Gaithersburg will be **hosting a workshop for farmers to learn about aquaponics on 1/27/24.** If interested, please reach out to [annarose@mannafood.org](mailto:annarose@mannafood.org). A calendar invitation will be sent to those who express interest in attending.

**Want to be featured in our newsletter? Email [annarose@mannafood.org](mailto:annarose@mannafood.org)**



Manna operates Farm to Food Bank in partnership with the Office of Food Systems Resilience, the Office of Agriculture, and the Montgomery County Food Council.