



FOOD BANK OF
NORTH ALABAMA

Impact

Together we can solve hunger™

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Healthy Foods More Accessible to North Alabama

Thanks to supporters like you, the Food Bank's Farm Food Collaborative program continues to grow, making healthy foods more accessible to North Alabama and helping local family farms thrive.

Farm Food Collaborative co-managers Carey Martin and Natalie Bishnoi work individually with farmers to help them obtain food safety certifications and coordinate sales on their behalf with grocery stores, restaurants and schools. They work closely with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education to get Alabama-grown produce into each public school in the state.

Since much of our harvest season falls outside the school year, the Farm Food Collaborative team has worked to develop additional opportunities to help farmers and children during the summer.

Starting last year and continuing this summer, the Farm Food Collaborative works not only with the Food Bank of North Alabama, but also the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama and the Alabama Food Bank Association, to serve locally grown snacks to about **1,400 children weekly** at Summer Meals

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Locally grown snacks served to about 1,400 children weekly at Summer Meals sites.



Because of donors like **you** ... **amazing things are happening!**



Healthy Foods More Accessible

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sites in Central and North Alabama. One child told site coordinators, *"Y'all have really upped your game on the lunches!"*

Support from donors has enabled the Food Bank of North Alabama to recently expand its pilot initiative called Kids Harvest, where produce grown on local farms as well as produce donated by Food Bank partners is distributed to kids and families participating in Summer Meals. The number of families served jumped from about 80 in 2017 to more than **500** this year. **That means North Alabama families in need received five times more produce this summer!**

The Farm Food Collaborative also has teamed up with eight Kroger stores in North Alabama to provide locally grown produce to customers throughout our region. When you see "I'm Local" signs in your neighborhood Kroger, know that you helped make that dream a reality for hard-working farmers in our community.



The Farm Food Collaborative program was created in 2012 to help build a robust local food system that supports thriving family farms, a strong economy and a healthy population.

Your support helps all of us at the Food Bank of North Alabama achieve that mission every day, and we could not be more grateful!