



United States Department of Agriculture  
Risk Management Agency

March 2009

## 2009 INSURANCE FACT SHEET

# Gleaning

Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

### Food Recovery and Gleaning

Food recovery and **gleaning** is the collection of wholesome food for distribution to the poor and hungry. It follows a basic humanitarian ethic that has been part of societies for centuries. We know that “**gleaning**” or gathering after harvest, goes back to at least as far as biblical days. Today, the terms “**gleaning**” and “food recovery” are often used interchangeably and cover a variety of different methods of food collection.

### USDA Encourages Gleaning Program for Federally-Insured Crops

*According to USDA studies, more than one-fourth of all the food produced in the United States is wasted.*

*You can reduce food losses that begin in the field.*

### Field Gleaning

Field **gleaning** is the collection of crops from farmers’ fields that have already been harvested or fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest. This term can also be used to describe the donation of agricultural products that have already been harvested and are being stored at a farm or packing house. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation encourages and promotes **gleaning** efforts of insureds. Insurance providers are encouraged to allow **gleaning** in situations where a crop or portion of a crop may otherwise go unused or be destroyed.

### Acceptable Charitable Organization

FCIC will allow **gleaning** only when the crop has been **gleaned** by a charitable organization listed in the Department of Agriculture Handbook, “A Citizen’s Guide to Food Recovery” and the insured has not received compensation from the organization. If a particular organization is not listed in the handbook, contact the State coordinator listed in the handbook. “A Citizen’s Guide to Food Recovery” also contains other relevant information on **gleaning** and food recovery, such as the “Good Samaritan Law” that protects the insured for liability issues.

### Gleaning on Harvested Acreage

**Gleaning** will be allowed on crop acreage that has been harvested as long as any remaining crop production on the harvested acreage cannot be harvested using normal and proper harvest methods (e.g., production from lodged corn that can only be hand harvested.)

Some crop provisions (e.g., tomatoes, peppers) state that production not meeting the specific requirements of the crop provisions will not be considered production to count; other crop provisions may contain similar provisions. Producers are encouraged to permit such production to be **gleaned**.

Harvested production declared zero market value (quality adjusted to zero value or zero production to count) and that is required to be destroyed (e.g., corn with quality adjustment factor of .000); **gleaning** or food recovery of any salvageable production will be allowed as long as the crop does not contain substances or conditions identified by the Food and Drug Administration or other public health organizations of the United States as injurious to human or animal health.

## Gleaning Reference Guidance Materials

Various program materials are available to provide guidance information for interested parties and/or individuals:

- **USDA's Citizen's Guide to Food Recovery.**  
Available online at: [www.usda.gov/news/pubs/gleaning/content.htm](http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/gleaning/content.htm)
- Public Law 104-210, Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act,
- USDA Risk Management Agency Loss Adjustment Manual, paragraph 94, Titled: Gleaned Acreage
- RMA Manager Bulletin 99-023 (dated 6-28-99)
- Public Law 105-19, Volunteer Protection Act of 1997

## Additional Information / Questions

Producers who wish to donate their damaged crops for gleaning purposes should contact their insurance agent and loss adjuster before allowing volunteers on to their fields to ensure equitable claims are paid. It is important that the insurance provider first determines the amount of crop damage before any gleaning activities are performed.

Volunteer organizations requesting additional information about the opportunity to glean local crops, may contact the local USDA Service Center or private crop insurance agent. A list of crop insurance agents is available on the RMA website:

<http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>

## Regional Contact for RMA

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