




STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

DATE: August 1, 2003

TO: All Local Health Departments
Attn: Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian
MDA Regional Supervisors
Attn: Food and Dairy Division Managers

FROM: Thomas Crook, Manager
Food Service Sanitation Section 

SUBJECT: **Food Banks as an Approved Source of Food, updated**

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) was requested to clarify and outline the flow of salvaged food products in Michigan. This memo is designed to be used in conjunction with the guidance of Feb 7, 2002, subject: **Food Banks as an Approved Source of Food**.

Food banks are an approved food source, and are inspected by MDA staff. MDA regional offices can provide you with a list of licensed and inspected facilities in your particular county or district. The regional offices are also available for consultation about questions related to food wholesomeness, packaging defects, food sources, or the meaning of package dates.

The food banks themselves have developed and follow a set of guidelines that has been reviewed and accepted by the Conference on Food Protection for the handling of salvaged or recovered foods, which can be downloaded for review at <http://www.foodprotect.org/documents.html>. This document is used in Michigan by all food banks, warehouses, distribution centers, soup kitchens and emergency food sources associated with America's Second Harvest. As you will note, the document is based upon the Model Food Code, and refers to food safety issues associated with specific types of foods.

Attached you will find a flow chart which outlines where food enters the system, who is the licensing agency, and most importantly, who is responsible to sort, assess, save, use or discard donated food.

Food quality issues are addressed in a separate document produced by America's Second Harvest. Contact the Michigan Chapter of the Food Bank Council of Michigan at 1-800-552-4483 if you would like a copy to review.

Ultimately the use of recovered or salvaged food is an opportunity to meet the hunger needs of the public.

Staff may also wish to review the following:

Food Law Section 289.8107, specifically subsection 4&5 and

Food Code Section 3-202.15

TC:khg

Attachments: [Food Banks as an Approved Source of Food](#), February 7, 2002
Flow of Salvaged Food in Michigan, July 21, 2003

Flow of salvaged food in Michigan

Packaged products sourced from **Retail Operations: Grocery, Restaurant, and Wholesalers.**

Product sourced from **Manufacturers**; Overruns, Discontinued Items, Seasonal Items, Packaging Changes, Quality Standards

Products from regional, local and nationwide food drives, from **public sources.**

America's Second Harvest (A2H) – Food from all of these **sources** is sorted, assessed for package defects and safety. Product that is acceptable is then distributed through the national A2H warehouse distribution network of food banks. Food Banks follow the Conference for Food Protection's, "Food Recovery Guidelines" that are available for review at: www.foodprotect.org/documents.html.

Regional, local emergency food provider agencies that obtain food from America's Second Harvest food banks are also trained to follow the Food Recovery Guidelines. Food products include non-perishables and perishable foods, such as produce, frozen foods, perishable dairy, and lunchmeat. In Michigan, the Food Bank Council of Michigan provides statewide distribution coordination.

Instate facilities are inspected and licensed by MDA. Other appropriate agencies inspect and license out of state warehouses and distribution centers.

Regional food banks/warehouses located throughout the state distribute food to member agencies. Agency contracts require them to abide by Second Harvest standards on Food Safety.

The reg. food banks are inspected and licensed by Food and Dairy Division, MDA

Local Sources for food products such as: parishioners, local food drives, Boy/Girl Scouts etc. Usually requested as non-perishable packaged foods.

Local agency – Emergency Food providers such as food pantries, rescue mission, soup kitchen...

These agencies obtain food from regional food banks and from **local sources**, such as parishioners, local food drives, local retailers etc. The **local sourced** food is evaluated, sorted, used or discarded by local agency; following the A2H guidelines and training that they have received. The Regional Food Banks/Second Harvest have an audit procedure, which includes unannounced inspections, to determine compliance with their standards and training requirements for local agencies that receive food from them.

Note: All products from America's Second Harvest are invoiced. Documentation of the source for these food products is available for review by Local Health Dept. or MDA staff.

Local Agencies may be licensed by Local Health Departments or Michigan Department of Agriculture, depending upon the operations.

State of Michigan



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Department of Agriculture

DAN WYANT, Director

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DATE: February 7, 2002

TO: All Local Health Departments
Attn.: Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian

FROM: Food Service Sanitation Section
Food and Dairy Division

SUBJECT: Food Banks as an Approved Source of Food

MDA has been contacted by a Michigan food bank that is concerned that local health department food inspector's are incorrectly citing mildly damaged or out-of-date food containers as being in violation of the Food Code and Food Law.

Local health departments should be aware that the food banks are an approved food source and are inspected by MDA staff as a food warehouse. MDA regional offices are available for consultation about questions related to food wholesomeness, packaging defects, food sources, or the meaning of package dates.

Staff may also wish to review the following:

- Food Law section 289.8107, specifically subsection 4 & 5 and
- Food Code section 3-202.15.

KB:NDF:khg

cc: Robert Scranton, MDCH
John M. Arnold, Gleaners Food Bank