

FARM BILL UPDATE AND NEW PROGRAM FOR ILLINOIS IN 2008

*The following is a letter to the editor sent January 8, 2008:

I want to commend Post-Dispatch Reporter Georgina Gustin and her story dated December 5, 2007 highlighting the recent plights faced by the St. Louis Area Foodbank and hunger relief organizations across the country in 2007 and the importance of a prompt passage of the then-stalled Farm Bill. Since the day it was printed, the bi-state community's response has been a shining example of humanity.

+ Upon reading the report, the president of Shop 'n Save summoned two truckloads for the Foodbank.

+ Wal-Mart announced a nationwide donation of 50 truckloads - one of which was delivered to the St. Louis

Area Foodbank.

+ SuperValu donated food and gift certificates. Hundreds of individuals called or visited the Foodbank to offer financial gifts and volunteer their time.

+ And possibly most important, readers contacted their senators urging them to pass a strong Farm Bill.

I'm glad to say that the senate did pass its version of the Farm Bill on December 13, 2007 and will reconvene to iron out details later this month. It appears the bill will be stronger which should translate into more nutritious food for those in need here at home and throughout the country.

As a bi-state hunger relief organization, the St. Louis Area Foodbank is also pleased to announce a new program that has been developed to help those we serve in Illinois. The "Feeding Illinois Program" is

a new partnership between the Illinois Food Bank Association (IFBA) and the

"Under Governor Blagojevich's leadership, the State of Illinois has committed \$1 million toward feeding hungry Illinoisans in Fiscal Year 2008."

Illinois Department of Human Services.

Under Governor Blagojevich's leadership, the State of Illinois has committed \$1 million toward feeding hungry Illinoisans in Fiscal Year 2008. This funding will allow the eight food banks serving Illinois to purchase 1,500,000 pounds of nutritious food for distribution to nearly 2,000 food pantries, soup kitchens

and shelters that feed nearly 900,000 residents across the entire state of Illinois. The

Illinois Food Bank Association is made up of the Central Illinois Foodbank, the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the Northern Illinois Food Bank, the Peoria Area Food Bank, the River Bend Foodbank, the St. Louis Area Foodbank and the Tri-State Foodbank.

I applaud all the aforementioned

companies, organizations and individuals for being leaders in a time of need and I encourage all of them to continue making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely,

Frank Finnegan
Executive Director
St. Louis Area Foodbank

**More details for impacted agencies coming soon.*

RECALL NOTICE: The New Era Canning Company of New Era, Michigan has voluntarily EXPANDED THE RECALL of select units of its products. Recalled items now include: Mexican style chili beans; Green beans; Dark red kidney beans. This product was not distributed through the St. Louis Area Foodbank as a direct donation. However, some of the recalled items may be included in salvage or food drive product distributed by the Foodbank or through your own respective donors. If you have any of this product, please contact your agency relations representative or call (314) 292-6262. See page 3 for more information.

BOY SCOUT PRODUCT is still available for eligible Missouri pantries while supplies last. Product is not available for ordering online and will instead be given out to eligible agencies upon pick-up or delivery .



FRESH PRODUCE AVAILABLE: Remember, the Foodbank is working to ensure that we consistently have a variety of nutritious, fresh produce (at no fee) for all partner agencies.

ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK RECEIVES COVETED 4-STAR RATING FROM AMERICA'S LARGEST CHARITY EVALUATOR FOR 4TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

**Only 5% of charities evaluated throughout the country have received top ranking 4 consecutive years

For the 4th consecutive year, Charity Navigator – America's largest charity evaluator – has awarded its highest 4-star ranking to the St. Louis Area Foodbank for sound fiscal management.



"Only 5% of charities rated have received at least 4 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that St. Louis Area Foodbank outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate in the most fiscally responsible way possible," said Trent Stamp, president of Charity Navigator. "This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates St. Louis Area Foodbank from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."

Serving as the bi-state region's premier hunger-relief organization, the St. Louis Area Foodbank is the primary source of food for more than 500 community-based emergency feeding programs throughout 26 counties in Missouri and Illinois. "The Foodbank is always grateful to those that support our work," said Frank Finnegan, executive director of the St. Louis Area Foodbank. "Hopefully, this news will encourage continued support from our current donors while helping inspire others to join us in our mission to feed hungry people," he concluded.

Below is a short list of some of the donated items received in December 2007. If you're not visiting the Foodbank or checking our online inventory on a consistent basis, then you're missing out on quite a variety.

Capri Sun Assorted Flavors
Welch's 100% Grape Juice
Mott's Applesauce
Chef Boyardee Microwavable Meals
Creamette Vermicelli Pasta
Creamette Penne Pasta
Chicken Stuffing Mix
Green Beans
Hamburger Helper Assorted Meals
Sweet Corn
Macaroni and Cheese Dinners
Pork & Beans
Chicken Noodle, Vegetable & Cream of Mushroom Soup
Beef Stew
Raisin Bran & Corn Flakes Cereal
Spaghetti Pasta & Sauce
Instant Oatmeal
Fresh Produce
Sliced Peaches
Toaster Pastries
Fruit Cocktail
Chili w/Beans
Vienna Sausages
Nabisco Assorted Cereal, Cookies, & Crackers

Visit www.stlfoodbank.org and click on the "Members Area" link on the left to view the Foodbank's online inventory. If you have not yet registered, contact your Agency Relations Coordinator at the number on the back page.

WANTED: MORE PARTNER AGENCIES

If you know of a community feeding program in need of the services provided by the St. Louis Area Foodbank, please let us know. Our shared mission of feeding hungry people includes all people.

For Missouri, please contact:
Ting Lai, Agency Relations Coord.
(314) 292-5390
tlai@stlfoodbank.org

For Illinois, please contact:
Stacey Shivers, Agency Relations Coord.
(314) 292-5388
sshivers@stlfoodbank.org

"Teamwork is working together — even when apart."
- Unknown

Thomas Edison, when asked why he had a team of twenty-one assistants:
"If I could solve all the problems myself, I would."

**NEW ERA CANNING COMPANY
ANNOUNCES NEW RECALL OF CERTAIN
LOTS OF MEXICAN-STYLE CHILI BEANS,
GREEN BEANS AND DARK RED KIDNEY
BEANS BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE HEALTH
RISK**

Contact: Linda Miller | 1-800-282-9007 Ext 111

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- New Era, MI -- January 8, 2008 --- New Era Canning Company of New Era, Michigan is announcing a new recall to include Mexican style chili beans, green beans, and dark red kidney beans that were shipped to food service and retail customers because a records review identified the possibility that a small number of cans from each lot may not have been adequately cooked.

New Era is recalling these products as a precautionary measure because cans of vegetables that have not been adequately cooked have the potential for the growth of Clostridium botulinum, a bacterium which can cause botulism, a potentially fatal form of food poisoning. Botulism can cause the following symptoms: general weakness, dizziness, double-vision and trouble speaking or swallowing. Difficulty in breathing, weakness of other muscles, abdominal distension and constipation may also be common symptoms. People experiencing these symptoms should seek immediate medical attention. The incubation period can be 2 hours to 2 weeks; in most cases the symptoms appear after 12 to 24 hours.

This recall only affects a small number of cases from the products with the specific codes listed below:

GFS brand Fancy Mexican Style Chili Beans in 6 lb. 12 oz. cans, GFS Reorder #192015, UPC 9390119201. The recall is limited to 43 cases of product with 6 cans per case of lot number 00249 5AJ6LC with a 4 digit time stamp number ranging from 2113 through 2235 printed on the end of the can after the lot number (For example: 00249 5AJ6LC 2113). Only product bearing time stamps of 2113 through 2235 are included in the recall. The canned Mexican style chili beans were distributed to Gordon Food Service foodservice customers in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin and sold through GFS Marketplace stores in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan.

Kitchen brand Blue Lake Mixed Cuts Green

Beans in 6 lb. 6 oz. cans. This recall is limited to 57 cases with 6 cans per case with lot number 00249 6FG5GA printed on the end of the can. (All cans of this lot are under recall). The canned green beans were not sold at retail, but were distributed to a Michigan restaurant by North Oakland Commodities.

Great Value brand Dark Red Kidney Beans in 15.5 oz. cans, UPC 7874237085. This recall is limited to 12 cases with 12 cans per case with lot number 00249 CKJ6LD printed on the end of the can. (All cans of this lot are under recall). This lot of canned dark red kidney beans was sold at Wal-Mart Stores in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

Any food that may be contaminated should be disposed of carefully. Even tiny amounts of toxins ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the eye or a break in the skin can cause serious illness. Skin contact should be avoided as much as possible, and the hands should be washed immediately after handling the food. Customers who have the product or any foods made with these products should throw them away immediately. Double bag the cans in plastic bags that are tightly closed, then place in a trash receptacle for non-recyclable trash outside of the home. Restaurants and institutions are encouraged to assure that such products are only placed in locked receptacles which are not accessible to the public. Additional instructions for safe disposal can be found at www.cdc.gov/botulism/botulism_faq.htm. Anyone with questions can call FDA at 1-888-SAFEFOOD.

Customers with questions may contact New Era Canning at 1-800-282-9007 Ext. 111.

For full release, visit:
www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/newera01_08.html

FOODBANK STATEMENT: *This product was **not distributed** through the St. Louis Area Foodbank as a direct donation. However, some of the recalled items may be included in salvage or food drive product distributed by the Foodbank or through your own respective donors. If you have any of this product, please contact your agency relations representative or call (314) 292-6262.*

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STLFOODBANK.ORG



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FOOD PANTRY TAX CREDIT (MISSOURI) UPDATE

The Missouri Department of Revenue has been working on the Food Pantry Tax Credit and they have finished first drafts of the paper work and will be ready to take applications during this upcoming tax season. The staff contact in Rep. Rod Jetton's office explained the process of getting the tax credits. Anyone interested in receiving the food pantry donation tax credit will have to:

First, check the correct box on the State tax return if they made a food pantry donation and second, get the form that will be required for the pantry owner/operator to sign verifying the donation.

If the donation was made this year, Department of Revenue (DoR) is willing to accept a written note/ receipt from the pantry operator to the donor stating that the individual donated to that pantry. As for the written note for donations this year, I would imagine that a clarification of who donated, to whom they donated, when and how much would be good enough for DoR

The only problem that Revenue seems to think they will run into is that all of the early-filers will want their return back just as early.

As the language was drafted, DoR will wait until April 18, 2008 to appropriate all of the available tax credit dollars to those individuals that checked the box.

If you have additional questions for the department that you could call the general hotline number and ask to speak to the Legislative Liaison in the department. The Legislative people should know about this bill or can at least pass you on to someone who could answer your question. The general number for the Missouri Department of Revenue is: (573) 751-3505

Additional contact: Christine Woody, MSW | Missouri Association for Social Welfare (MASW)
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