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WSDA HELPS BRIDGE THE GAP

Donations to food banks dropped nearly 50% in the first peak of the pandemic.

Food Purchases

- Total spent on food: $59.6 million
- Total food purchased:
  - Shelf-stable: $41.7 million
  - Fresh: $17.9 million
- Total pounds of food:
  - Shelf-stable: 28.6 million lbs.
  - Fresh: 13.1 million lbs.
- Total Truckloads of food:
  - Shelf-stable: 2,084
  - Fresh: 1,432
- Total spent on supplies: $4 million
- Average cost per pound for food purchases: $1.43 per pound

Food Security During COVID-19

WSDA assistance helped cut food pantry shortages in half.

Food Donations Dropped

Amount of food purchased by WSDA: $59.6 million

- 20,844 tons
- 2,084 trucks
- Enough for 27.8 million meals = AT LEAST three meals for every Washington resident

WSDA supported safe distribution of food, buying needed supplies:

- Purchased nearly $4 million of supplies
- Boxes were needed after food distribution methods changed due to the coronavirus
- Includes over 3.1 million masks and 4.6 million gloves

Shelf-stable food

Purchased $41.7 million

- 70% of all purchased
- 28.6 million pounds
- 1,432 truckloads
- Enough for 19 million meals

Local Food Purchases (shelf-stable)

- 84% from Pacific Northwest businesses
- 44% PNW grown or processed
- 26% Washington grown or processed

Initially, WSDA sourced any available food, but as the food supply chain has stabilized, purchasing from Washington growers, processors and companies has been a top priority.

Fresh food

Purchased $17.9 million

- 13.1 million pounds
- All from local sources

WSDA food purchases:

- Stabilized food system, supporting both demand and supply sides
- Opened new markets for farmers and food producers
- Strengthened network links and teamwork
- Reduced food waste
- Invested in cold storage capacity to help organizations safely distribute more fresh food

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WSDA secured contracts and buys food.

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