

FOOD SAFETY FROM Farm & Garden



TO
PRESCHOOL

Guidelines for Accepting Donated Foods*

- € Check to make sure that local and state health regulations allow you to accept food donations from outside sources.
- € Make sure that your Center has liability insurance which covers food safety issues that may result from outside donations.
- € Create a list of guidelines for growing, handling, and harvesting fresh produce and share the guidelines with anyone who would like to donate foods to your Center.
- € Visit the gardens that donate fresh produce to your center. Be sure to discuss best practices with those that make food donations.
- € Accept donations only when a member of the Center who is well versed in the guidelines is available. That person should inspect the produce and accept only those items which meet the Center's guidelines.
- € Visually inspect any vehicle and equipment used to transport fresh produce to the school.
- € Inspect all produce when it arrives following good handling and storage practices.
- € Do not accept any produce that appears rotten or damaged.

**Adapted from Food Safety Tips for School Gardens – USDA & NIFSM*