

Chicken Farmers of Ontario Food Banks Program - Contributing to a Hunger-Free Ontario

Backgrounder

Each year more and more Ontarians are finding themselves reliant for some part of the nutritional needs on the local food bank system. Within the system there is a chronic shortage of fresh meat available to support this expanding base of needy families and individuals.

In order to help meet this rising demand, **Chicken Farmers of Ontario** has developed a program to encourage its farmer-members to grow chicken for delivery to the community based members of the Ontario Association of Food Banks.

Chicken is a supply managed product in Canada and so each chicken grown for the commercial market is planned and accounted for. The new program developed by CFO will allow each farmer to order an additional 300 chicks annually from their hatcheries specifically for the food bank system using the appropriate tracking systems.

Participating farmer-members donating food to a food bank under this program are eligible to receive a 25% Food Donation Tax Credit for Farmers which was created under the Ontario Local Food Act, 2013.

Collaboration by the Industry Value Chain

The CFO Food Bank Donation Program creates a collaborative opportunity for the industry to help ensure that the most chicken possible is delivered to the Ontario food bank system. Ideally the process will work as follows:

- The CFO farmer collaborates with the selected food bank, determines an appropriate time period to grow the extra chickens, and pre-orders up to 300 extra chicks from their hatchery for that period.
- The CFO farmer grows the chicken, and ensures that the appropriate digital tracking occurs within the orderly marketing supply management system.
- The farmer collaborates with his or her participating chicken processor to process the chicken, and works with the targeted food bank to ensure delivery of the agreed on chicken products.

- The food bank receives and distributes the fresh chicken products donated under this program to their clients as needed.

Once the system is up and running CFO has targeted an annual collective donation level of \$1 million of retail value chicken. This represents approximately 100,000 fresh whole chickens.