

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Canada

**Post:** Toronto

### **FAS Canada assisting in Relieving Hunger in Canada**

**Report Categories:**

Export Accomplishments - Other

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**Report Highlights:**

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FAS Canada recently assisted, Forgotten Harvest, a U.S. hunger relief organization operating on both sides of the U.S. and Canada border. In April of this year, the Michigan non-profit food organization reached out to FAS /Canada to see if there was any recourse to export of ungraded produce to a number of much needed food banks in the Essex Country region of Southeastern Ontario. By contacting the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), FAS/Canada learned of a special provision under Charitable Goods Remission Order (Memorandum D8-2-9) that would allow the importation of low risk and ungraded produce. A letter by the Canada Border Services Agency was issued to Forgotten Harvest and to date they have shipped three containers of produce to Canada, mostly consisting of squash, corn, and dry beans. The goals to reduce waste (the Natural Resource Defense Council reported up to 40% of food goes to landfill) and support USDA's goals in providing food security globally are as important here in Canada as it is worldwide.

The national statistics in the U.S. show that 17.6 million households and another 1.6 million Canadians are food insecure. These numbers are felt more in the Metro Detroit, Michigan and in Windsor, Ontario where the region continues to recover from this past decade's recession as one in five / six people try and find next meal. Among the various organizations across the U.S. trying to relieve this challenge creatively is Forgotten Harvest, based in Oak Park, Michigan.

Established in 1990, Forgotten Harvest of Michigan; mission's strategy is to rescue surplus prepared and perishable food items and donate it to various food banks and emergency food providers. In 2013, the organization "rescued" 45.5 million pounds of food collecting donations from 455 sources that includes farmers, grocery stores, restaurants, and other Health Department-approved sources that would otherwise go to waste.