



Local product sourcing

Prepared for Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food, Feb. 3, 2012

Greater Chicago Food Depository



- ❑ Food bank serving Chicago and Cook County
- ❑ 650 member pantries, soup kitchens and shelters
- ❑ 69 million pounds distributed last year, including 18 million pounds produce

Retail food rescue program



- ❑ Established in the late 1980s
- ❑ 165 retail grocery, club and discount food stores
- ❑ Nine dedicated trucks Monday through Friday

Retail food rescue program

Core items

- Grain: Bread, cereal, pasta, rice
- Protein: Beans, eggs, meat, peanut butter, tuna
- Dairy: Fresh milk, shelf-stable milk
- Fruit/vegetable: Fresh produce, canned fruit, canned vegetables
- Entrée/miscellaneous: Jelly, mac & cheese, pasta sauce, soup, stew

Retail food rescue program



- ❑ Food safety focus
- ❑ Temperature-controlled trucks
- ❑ Agencies required to have certified food handlers on staff

Growing partnership



- 2010: 16 acres of corn, 40 volunteers, 120,000 pounds
- Minimal cost of seed and fertilizer

Growing partnership



- 2011: 30 acres of corn, 5 acres of squash
- Three separate harvests