

My Name is Bill Spiller, my wife and I have a small farm in Wells that we have been operating since 1967. We grow fruits and vegetables and have a few beef cattle and raise hay to sell.

I worked on the committee that first set up the Mainers feeding Mainers program and have been part of that program ever since. As part of that program we provide local food pantries with fresh produce though out the growing season.

The pantries tell us how much they appreciate produce fresh from the farm and how well it is received by their patrons. Much of the produce given by the big box stores is on or beyond its useful life. The big box stores can take a tax deduction for product that would otherwise be discarded.

We receive a price for our product that is less than wholesale and have a gleaning program besides that we don't charge for. That program supplies 5 local pantries. The gleaners are part of the master gardeners' program.

The Mainers Feeding Mainers program gives us a financial base that makes it easier to cover the labor costs that have increased much in the last few years, besides being 84 I need more help to keep the farm running.

With the political situation today, it seems to me that more people are going to need help from Good Shephard food bank than in the past. Also consider that many people can't afford fresh produce and don't get the health benefits that they provide.

Knowing that the budget is very tight I still request that you give high priority to the request from Good Shephard.

Your humble farmer,

Bill Spiller