

[NYS Tax Credit for Food Pantry Donations](#) by Jack Hornickel

Each year, Greenmarket farmers generously donate about 1,000,000 pounds of fresh produce to New York City food pantries as part of our Fresh Pantry Project. Now, New York State farmers can receive up to \$5,000 in a refundable tax credit for helping to feed those in need.

The credit is available for donations of fruit, vegetables, eggs, and meat to a food pantry with a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Donated food must be wholesome and edible, but it can be "ugly" and unmarketable. Donation of dairy products are eligible only from dairies that bottle, process, package, and market their goods directly – that's you Greenmarket dairies. (Unfortunately, baked goods are not eligible.)

Farmers will receive 25% of the total fair market value of the donated products on their NYS tax return. In order to claim the credit, the farmer must keep a receipt that includes a reasonable description of the donation and the name and EIN of the pantry that picked it up.

Farmers can use a receipt like the example below:

Jumpin Jack's Orchard - Aitamont, NY

The example above would be worth \$57.50 in tax credit – (25% of \$230.00). Not bad!

To view the food pantry that collects at your Greenmarket, visit the [Fresh Pantry Project webpage](#). And if you want help coordinating with a pantry, or you know a pantry that does not yet participate, please contact Cathy Chambers at cchambers@grownyc.org or (212) 788-7900 x237.