



Dear local meat processor –

Together Missouri Farmers Care, the Missouri Pork Association, and United Way of the Mark Twain Area are launching Hogs for Hunger locally and need your help. Food pantries are crucial for community members facing food insecurity. However, these pantries lack enough quality protein. We are inviting you to join us to make brighter days for our neighbors by supporting Hogs for Hunger in Northeast Missouri.

By partnering with local hog producers, integrators, and contract growers, we intend to help route hogs that would be euthanized or sold as culls to local processors for processing and donation to local pantries.

Hogs for Hunger will take an innovative approach to process as many hogs as possible to meet local needs. When applicable, we propose that lockers keep retail cuts, up to \$150 in total value, to compensate for processing costs. As an example, processors could keep bellies, chops and/or ribs to offset costs. It is preferred that this trade of fresh retail cuts would be adequate to compensate for the processing of these cull hogs. If not applicable, we can offer up to \$150 per head to processors.

To serve the most people in need, we understand this project must be convenient and cost effective for everyone. Hogs must be processed under retail exemption standards. Cured meat is not needed for this project. Processors have flexibility in cutting specifications. If grinding is the easiest and most cost effective, great. If some cuts are preferred, great. We ask that pork is packaged for individual consumers with limited storage. For example, ideal packaging would include:

- ground product in one-pound packages,
- 3lbs or less roasts,
- individual cuts like chops, 4 per package, and
- ribs, packaged as ½ racks.

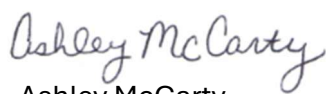
It is our goal to build stronger relationships between local growers, integrators, contractors, processors and food pantries. Our goal is that producers and processors establish a routine for scheduling. Standing spots at participating processors would make scheduling easy. Or if there is appointment availability, local cull hogs can fill up slots. We are happy to help solidify these details with you and local producers.



Through this partnership, we believe there are numerous hogs that can be utilized to meet the needs of our neighbors in need. If you have questions, suggestions or wish to sign up to participate, please reach out to: Denise Damron with United Way at 573-221-2761 or director@unitedwaymta.org.

Our goal is to make the administration of this unique and impactful local partnership as straightforward as possible. Through coordination with Denise, local pantries will be responsible for picking up pork after processing. The attached form will need to be completed when hogs are donated. Thank you for your vital role in making local protein accessible to our neighbors facing hunger.

In appreciation,



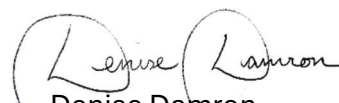
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