



## Gleaning Program Volunteer Packet

### What is Gleaning?

Gleaning is a program of CROS Ministries, in partnership with area Food Banks and other food distribution agencies in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. It is a food recovery strategy that allows produce that is below top market grade or unmarketable, but equally nutritious and beneficial to be harvested and distributed to the food insecure of Palm Beach and Martin Counties instead of being plowed back into the soil.

Since people live apart from where their food is grown, gleaning requires volunteers who will bridge the gap between the field and the pantry to bring food to locations where people in need can receive it. Farmers donate the produce they cannot sell to CROS Ministries. Volunteers gather the produce. Our food-distributing partners then distribute the recovered produce to local agencies with feeding programs for individuals and families with low-incomes, seniors, people with disabilities, and the unhoused. The food is given away free of charge.

### What is New for the 2023-2024 Season?

1. Robynne Ryals has officially stepped in as CROS Ministries' Director of Gleaning after Keith Cutshall's retirement on May 31, 2023.

### How do I get Involved?

There are three ways that you can connect to a gleaning event.

1. **Through our Weekly Gleaning Email Notices.** On Monday of every week, we send out where we are going to be gleaning the following Wednesday through Monday. This will include weekday opportunities that are open to individuals and families as well as weekend opportunities. You are not expected to come every week or every time. This is the best means of knowing the most up to date information about what we do. You can opt out of receiving these emails at any time.
2. **Through SignUpGenius web page.** We use [SignUpGenius](#) to list anticipated gleaning dates in certain regions in Palm Beach, Martin and Hendry Counties. Individuals and groups can reserve their slots for these events. We generate this list before the fields are even planted, so it is subject to change and the exact field in each region will not be known until about a week out. We send out directions to the upcoming events on Mondays.
3. **By emailing Robynne.** You will find on the upcoming pages descriptions of what type of gleaning we do on each day of the week, the geographic area we concentrate upon and specific dates we anticipate we will be starting. You can select the date that you want to come or bring a group. Send an email to Robynne with your selection, and we will confirm the availability of that event for you. Robynne at [rryals@crosmministries.org](mailto:rryals@crosmministries.org), cell phone 561-713-4317. If you just need more information before you can decide, let us know we are happy to help.

## **Gleaning Events by Day of the Week**

(a full anticipated schedule is included in the rear of this packet)

**All Gleaning Events start at 8:30 am**

### **Gleaning on Mondays and Fridays**

Mondays and Fridays are set aside for school, company, and community groups to come and serve together. Depending upon the size of the group and the dynamics involved, these days might also be open to individuals to come. We can glean in the Boynton Beach/Delray Beach areas as well as in Belle Glade.

#### **Anticipated Dates in 2024**

January 19th	February 23rd	April 1st
January 22nd	February 26th	April 5th
January 26th	March 1st	April 8th
January 29th	March 4th	April 12th
February 2nd	March 8th	April 15th
February 5th	March 11th	April 19th
February 9th	March 15th	April 22nd
February 12th	March 18th	April 26th
February 16th	March 22nd	April 29th
February 19th	March 25th	May 3rd

### **Gleaning on Wednesdays**

#### **Hero Gleanings**

Wednesdays begin with an abbreviated gleaning in the Boynton Beach/Delray Beach area. Once that is concluded volunteers will continue to recover smaller portions of available produce by traveling to different farms throughout the county. This strategy we nickname “boutique gleaning” is designed to produce varieties of produce for our smaller distribution partners who benefit more from variety than volume.

Volunteers can come to the abbreviated gleaning only. Or they can come for the full experience.

#### **Anticipated Dates in 2024**

January 24th	February 21st	March 20th
January 31st	February 28th	March 27th
February 7th	March 6th	April 3rd
February 14th	March 13th	

## Gleaning on Thursdays

We set Thursdays aside to be in Belle Glade. The farm where we spend most of our time requires that volunteers at these events must be 13 years of age or older.

### Anticipated Dates in 2023-2024

December 14th	January 25th	March 14th
December 21st	February 1st	February 22nd
December 28th	February 8th	February 29th
January 4th	February 15th	March 21st
January 11th	March 7th	March 28th
January 18th		April 4th

## Gleaning on Saturdays

Saturdays are the big days of our gleaning efforts. We will often have multiple events occurring at the same time across Palm Beach, Martin, and Hendry Counties. We refer you to the full calendar listing for Individuals and Families at the back of this packet for anticipated dates or check out our SignupGenius calendar located at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044DAEAC2FA7FB6-fresh1>. **Groups are also welcome to come to both Saturday and Sunday events.**

## Gleaning on Sundays

We glean Sundays in the Boynton Beach/Delray Beach areas. These events are open to both individuals and groups.

### Anticipated Dates in 2024

January 21st	February 18th	April 7th
January 28th	February 25th	April 14th
February 4th	March 3rd	April 21 <sup>st</sup>
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	March 17th	April 28th
	March 24th	

## Gleaning in June and July

We glean mangoes in Lantana during June and July. You will find our basic schedule listed in the back of this packet and on the [SignupGenius](#) Calendar. Groups may register to come on other days during these months as well. If your group is interested, contact Robynne at [rryals@crosmministries.org](mailto:rryals@crosmministries.org).

## THINGS TO DO BEFORE GLEANING

1. All gleaners need to review “**Rules and Helpful Hints**” below for themselves and with their group.
2. Complete the “**Gleaner’s Liability Waiver**” form in this packet. NOTE: For groups, **Each Gleaner** in your group must complete the form. Bring the form(s) with you to the gleaning site. Give them to the CROS Field Supervisor at the gleaning site who will be collecting them. A “**Gleaner’s Liability Waiver**” form **MUST** be complete every time you glean with us. **Adults supervising groups must also complete a waiver form.**
3. Bring water and gloves for yourself and/or group.

**PLEASE NOTE: All gleaning events are tentative and weather permitting.** There is no absolute guarantee that we will be able to glean on the day that you have chosen. Our gleaning events depend on the weather and growing conditions of the season. Our gleaning calendar is prepared in advance of the harvest season. Events are scheduled when it is most likely that there will be produce available to glean. Dry or wet weather may affect the availability and condition of the fields and produce. Rain on the day of or the days immediately preceding the planned gleaning may cause field conditions to be too wet to enter safely. If you have questions, please contact Robynne at [rivals@crosmministries.org](mailto:rivals@crosmministries.org).

## RULES FOR GLEANERS

**When gleaning, remember you are on another person’s property.** Treat it better than your own property. (DO NOT leave water bottles, disposable gloves, candy wrappers, etc.). We are guests, please don’t abuse the privilege, or we may lose it.

1. Every gleaner must complete the enclosed Gleaner Form. **All gleaners under 18 years of age must have the waiver signed by their parents and be accompanied by a supervising adult.**
2. All gleaners still in elementary, middle, or high school must be accompanied by a supervising adult. This includes high school students 18 years of age or older.
3. **In the field, the CROS field supervisor is in charge.** Follow his/her instructions and directions completely. They are there to protect your safety, the safety of the produce, and to protect the property owner’s interest. Glean only in the areas designated by the field supervisor.
4. **Children five years of age and older are only allowed to glean with direct adult supervision. Children ages 5 and 6 must** be within arm’s reach of a responsible adult at all times. Some gleaning events are limited to older participants. These are designated on the schedule as 13+.
5. Safety is of the utmost importance in gleaning. **If any activity is questionable, do not do it.** Such safety practices include:
  - Do not climb trees or fences.
  - Do not ride on the back of moving vehicles.
  - Stay away from farm machinery, canals, and roadways.
  - Maintain a safe distance from other gleaners.

**The field supervisor can cancel a gleaning at any time if he/she feels these rules are not being followed.**

6. No pets please, it is not safe for them and a violation of food safety practices.

## HELPFUL HINTS

1. It is often good to dress in layers. In the morning, it is likely to be colder and damp, wearing a long sleeve shirt and long pants are recommended. As it gets warmer, a short sleeve shirt may be better. **Closed toed shoes are required.** No flip flops or open toed or heel shoes are permitted.
2. In cornfields, long pants are needed. Leaves from the corn stalks are sharp and can cut the skin.
3. It is recommended that all gleaners wear hats in the field, apply sunscreen, and have bug spray handy in case insects are an issue.
4. **Bathroom facilities are unavailable in most gleaning fields.** It is advisable to use the bathroom prior to coming to the field.
5. A three-to-five-gallon pail with a handle is an excellent container to carry through the field. Fill it and empty it into the packing box or bin. We will have some on hand for you.
6. **Mangoes are a member of the poison ivy family.** Anyone with that allergy is encouraged not to glean mangoes.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**When will I know where we are gleaning?** The growers notify CROS at the beginning of the week what field they might have available for gleaning the upcoming weekend. The gleaning director then travels to the field usually on Monday to map out directions. It is our goal to send out directions by Monday afternoon. If field directions are going to be delayed, you will be notified.

**Can I choose where we glean?** We pick what is ready to be picked where it is ready to be picked. We offer suggestions about what is likely to be in season at certain locations, but on a specific weekend we have to get what is ready for harvest or lose it. We understand if you need something close to your residence. We will try to accommodate you. We also need volunteers who are willing to be inconvenienced and go the extra mile to get what would otherwise be lost. We hope you will rise to that challenge.

**Are there bathrooms in the field?** In most instances, no.

**What are the times?** We glean from 8:30 am until 11:30 am. We finish early if we have filled the capacity of the box truck.

## Gleaning – Biblical References

Gleaning as a practice to combat hunger is thousands of years old. The people most likely to be hunger victims during the times of the Hebrew Scriptures were widows, orphans and people traveling through the land called Sojourners. *“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the Lord your God.”* (Leviticus 19:9-10) other references include Deuteronomy 24:19-22 & Ruth 2:2ff.

## Gleaning Dates and Locations for Individuals and Families

Please understand that all of the locations listed below are tentative. Growing conditions vary year to year, agricultural markets do as well. Listed below are our best estimates based upon previous experience. Locations could open up sooner, later, or not at all. We will let you know as soon as we know. In addition, new growers join us from time to time, which will also create unforeseen opportunities in new locations.

<u>Day of the Week</u>	<u>Calendar Date</u>	<u>Anticipated Locations</u>	
Saturday	November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Clewiston	
Saturday	November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Clewiston	
Saturday	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Clewiston	
Saturday	December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Clewiston	
*Thursday	December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event.
*Saturday	December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event.
Saturday	December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Clewiston	
*Thursday	December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event.
*Thursday	December 28 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event.
*Saturday	December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event.
Saturday	December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Clewiston	
*Thursday	January 4 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
*Saturday	January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pahokee	
*Thursday	January 11 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pahokee	
*Saturday	January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
*Thursday	January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
*Saturday	January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Pahokee	
Saturday	January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Sunday	January 21 <sup>st</sup>	Boynton Beach	
*Thursday	January 25 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
*Saturday	January 27 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	January 27 <sup>th</sup>	Pahokee	
Saturday	January 27 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Sunday	January 28 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
*Thursday	February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Boynton Beach	
*Saturday	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
Sunday	February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach/Delray Beach	
*Thursday	February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach/Delray Beach	
Saturday	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach #2	
Saturday	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City 6	

<b>Day of the Week</b>	<b>Calendar Date</b>	<b>Anticipated Locations</b>	
*Saturday	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
Sunday	February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach/Boynton Beach	
*Thursday	February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach/Delray Beach	
*Saturday	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
Saturday	February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
Sunday	February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach/Boynton Beach	
*Thursday	February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach	
Saturday	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
*Saturday	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
Sunday	February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach/Boynton Beach	
*Thursday	February 29 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Delray Beach	
Saturday	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Palm City	
*Saturday	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
Sunday	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Sunday	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Delray Beach	
*Thursday	March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach	
Saturday	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
*Saturday	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	March 9 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
Sunday	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach	
Sunday	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
*Thursday	March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach	
Saturday	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
*Saturday	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
Sunday	March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Sunday	March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach	
*Thursday	March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Boynton Beach/Delray Beach	

<u>Day of the Week</u>	<u>Calendar Date</u>	<u>Anticipated Locations</u>	
Saturday	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Palm City	
*Saturday	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
Sunday	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Sunday	March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach	
*Thursday	March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event

**There will be no gleaning over Easter weekend March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**

*Saturday	April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach/Delray Beach	
Saturday	April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
Saturday	April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
Sunday	April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
*Thursday	April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach	
Saturday	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
Saturday	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade #2	
*Saturday	April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Sunday	April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach/Delray Beach	
*Thursday	April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	*participants must be 13+ for this event
Saturday	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach/Delray Beach	
Saturday	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
Saturday	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	
Sunday	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Delray Beach	
Saturday	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach	
Saturday	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Boynton Beach	
Saturday	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
Saturday	April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	
Sunday	April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach/Boynton Beach	
Saturday	May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Delray Beach/Boynton Beach	
Saturday	May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
Saturday	May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Belle Glade	
Saturday	May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Palm City	
Saturday	May 25 <sup>th</sup>	Lantana	



During the **Month of June**, we will be harvesting mangoes in Lantana every day except for Sundays. The events will be from 8:30-10:30. Please remember that the mango is a member of the poison ivy family. The July Mango schedule will be determined based upon crop availability.

**Contact Robynne Ryals at [rryals@crosmministries.org](mailto:rryals@crosmministries.org) to schedule a gleaning event.**

CROS Ministries' Gleaning Program is funded, in whole or in part through a sub recipient grant awarded by the United States Department of Agriculture through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The contents in these materials/presentation do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States Department of Agriculture nor does mention of trade names, commercial productions, services or organization imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

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# Gleaner's Liability Waiver for -2024 Gleaning Season

Please complete and bring to the field with you each time you glean.

**REQUIRED:** In the event I or my child suffer any illness or accident requiring emergency or hospitalization, medication or surgery while participating in this gleaning, on the recommendation of the doctor, after consultation with the adults in charge of this event, I hereby give my permission for any medical treatment which may deem necessary and reasonable under the circumstances, understanding that the gleaning coordinator or other responsible person will contact me at the earliest possible moment. I fully understand and comprehend that reasonable care will be exercised by the adult staff for this gleaning event to protect the safety of those involved.

Photos, videos, audio and other images in which I appear that are taken during gleanings may be used by CROS Ministries for news coverage, newsletters, publicity, reports, displays, and for other print, broadcast, web or electronic news or promotional purposes.

Safety is of paramount importance in a gleaning event. For the protection of all involved, this disclaimer is necessary: I do not hold the board members or employees of CROS Ministries, Palm Beach County Food Bank, or any volunteers liable for any injury, bodily harm, accident or death of myself/my child during gleaning events sponsored by CROS Ministries. Neither will I hold the person(s) who own and/or operate the farm(s), business, plant, orchards, groves or the homeowner who owns the backyard, from which we glean, liable for accidents, injury, or death during the gleaning events.

For events at Agri-Gators, Inc. the following also applies: Safety is of paramount importance in a gleaning event. For the protection of all involved, this disclaimer is necessary: I do not hold the person(s) who own and/or operate the farm(s), or employees of Agri-Gators, or any volunteers liable for any injury, bodily harm, accident or death of myself/my child during gleaning events.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENTS STILL IN SCHOOL MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SUPERVISING ADULT.**

<b>If Gleaner is under 18 or 18+ and still in High School Parent must sign below</b>	
Signature _____	Date _____
<small>Parent/guardian if gleaner is under 18 years of age</small>	
Supervising Adult _____	

## Notify in Case of Emergency

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Conditions or Drug Allergies:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Community Service Hours Section

I would like community service hours for this event. You must provide an email address below.

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_