

Thank you for arranging to come to the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center to pick produce for the poor of our area. Here are directions: Take 495 to Exit 25A (which is Route 1, North towards Laurel, MD). This exit is just after the 95 North Exit off the Beltway. Take Route 1 North (Route 1 is also called Baltimore Ave.) approximately 1/8 mile. The USDA facility is on the left directly across the street from the National Agricultural Library.

Take a left at the light onto South Drive. Take your first right onto Circle Drive which brings you in front of five large brick buildings marked 001, 002, 003, 004, and 005. We meet at Building 005 (on Mondays & Thursdays), and you can park in the lot to the right of that building. We meet at Building 003 on the Sundays we have scheduled and you can park right in front of that building. I will meet you at the appropriate building and you can use the bathrooms before we drive out to the vegetable production area.

Each participant must fill out the waiver form and bring it the day of the harvest. The form states that each person is medically fit to participate. Most people wear shorts, a T-shirt, and old sneakers. Use sunscreen and bring garden gloves if you have them. Also have your volunteers bring drinks. We normally harvest for about two hours. All volunteers can take home some produce to their own families.

Our USDA escort is: Ted Currier 301-343-8295. If it is raining the morning of your harvest, please call me at: 703-476-2952 before 9:00am, to let me know if you would still like to harvest and to determine if it is still possible to harvest that decision will be made by the USDA staff.

In addition to your harvesting efforts we ask that you consider contributing a can or cans of food to donate to Food For Others. The fresh produce harvested in the USDA fields is long gone in January and February but people in need remain. Your contribution of non-perishable food products will sustain the mission of Food For Others into the winter months. Thank you for your support. We look forward to meeting you and having fun out in the fields!