



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

November 28, 2011

Dear Friends:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Association of Food Banks have joined together to declare December as the first annual “Farm to Food Bank Month.” Farmers and ranchers from across this state are encouraged to donate food or make pledges for the coming year to help address food insecurity. As the largest agricultural producer in the nation, a farming economy that feeds the nation and the world, we have an estimated five million Californians accessing emergency food assistance in our own backyard.

Many farmers, ranchers and food processors already donate a significant amount of food – more than 100 million pounds annually to local food banks and other charitable organizations. The “Farm to Food Bank” drive is an opportunity to celebrate agriculture’s ongoing commitment to local communities and help address the increased levels of hunger and poverty during these troubled economic times. I encourage each of you to promote this important initiative and support the ongoing commitment by the California State Board of Food and Agriculture to double farm contributions to food banks within the next five years.

Farm donations and pledges should be coordinated with:

Ron Clark  
California Association of Food Banks  
Phone: (510) 350-9907  
E-mail: [Ron@cafoodbanks.org](mailto:Ron@cafoodbanks.org)

In recognition of donations already provided by farmers, California State Board of Food and Agriculture President Craig McNamara and I will visit the Community Food Bank in Fresno on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. The Fresno Community Food Bank will be accepting farm donations and pledges from 9 am to Noon on that day to celebrate the “Farm-to-Food Bank” drive. All donations and pledges should be coordinated with Ron Clark.

Food and farming go hand-in-hand and California farmers are in a unique position to help the hungry – let’s support the “Farm to Food Bank” drive this December with pledges and farm donations to our local communities.

Yours truly,

Karen Ross  
Secretary

