

FareStart Food Recovery Donation Guidelines

Food safety is our first priority in food recovery. We may politely decline donations if donors are unable to verify the safety, source, and storage of their food.

We cannot accept:

- Food items that have been out for service on a line or buffet
- Unlabeled items
- Foreign packaging (items are unidentified)
- Improperly stored items
 - Example: Chicken breasts are stored above vegetables in a walk-in
- Freezer burnt items
- Products from personal gardens, kitchens, etc. as they cannot be assured by a business or organization
 - Example: Produce from personal backyards/gardens – cannot guarantee the conditions these crops were grown, harvested, and planted in

Some items that are past expiration date but still smell, look, and taste fine *can* be accepted. Items that are past expiration that *cannot* be accepted include:

- Meat
- Milk
- Soft cheeses that cannot be frozen (for example: mozzarella can be frozen and parmesan is fine past date).

This list can be expanded upon and is usually determined by a chef.

Priorities

Although we may accept prepared foods we prefer whole, fresh foods that increase the qualitative value for the people we serve. FareStart's needs are constantly fluctuating to address the needs of the community and donations may be turned down if not needed.

Preferred Items:

- Whole veggies and fruit
- Dairy
- Protein (beef, pork, poultry, fish, tofu, beans, other meat alternatives)
 - Frozen or fresh
- Uncooked grains (rice, oats, quinoa, pasta, etc.)
- Other dry goods
- Packaged "shelf-stable" items.