



MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MEFAP)

Fiscal Year 2025 Core Food & MassGrown Summary Report

July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025

PREPARED BY



ON BEHALF OF





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Highlights of Fiscal Year 2025

Hunger on the Rise

- **40 percent of Massachusetts households faced food insecurity at some point in 2025**, increasing from roughly 37 percent in 2024.
- Access to SNAP, a crucial hunger-relief service, decreased by approximately 8%, or approximately 87,000 recipients, from December 2024 to December 2025. Understaffing at the Department of Transitional Assistance and expanded work and eligibility requirements to SNAP will put **further pressure on the emergency food system** and the four Massachusetts food banks to fill this increased need.
- **Massachusetts remains one of the most expensive states in terms of cost per meal.** According to Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap study, the average cost of a meal in the Commonwealth is \$3.96, the highest cost per meal after D.C., Hawaii, and Alaska. The inflation rate for groceries continues to show food costs increasing at a rate of about 2% year-over-year.
- In FY25, the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (FBCMA) and its partners collectively served an estimated **888,000 people every month**. The Food Bank Coalition supports **nearly 1,000 community food assistance partners** that distribute products purchased with MEFAP funds through food pantries, soup kitchens, mobile markets, and direct delivery.



MEFAP in 2025

- MEFAP funding in FY25 was \$41.5 million, a \$6 million increase from FY24.
- A total of 44.2 million pounds of food were provided through MEFAP, including over **17.2 million pounds of fresh produce**.
 - **7.6% more pounds of food** were distributed through MEFAP than in FY24. **39.5 million pounds** were distributed through the Core Food program between July 2024 and June 2025.
 - **4.7 million pounds** were distributed through the MassGrown program between January 2025 and December 2025—a 40.7% increase from FY24.
 - There were **52 total vendors**.
 - **Produce distribution has more than tripled since 2020, increasing by 12 million pounds.**
- Between July 2024 and June 2025, the FBCMA collectively distributed **141 million pounds** of food across all food sources. MEFAP accounted for **31.4%** of that total distribution.



Impact on Massachusetts Economy

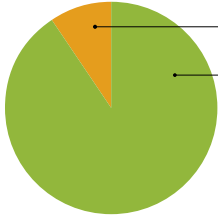
- **50% or \$19.7 million in MEFAP dollars was spent with Massachusetts-based suppliers, supporting the local economy.**
- The 46 Core Food vendors included **37 Massachusetts-based companies and farms**, comprising 45% of the Core Food spend.
- **20 Massachusetts farms** were supported by MassGrown purchases through MEFAP, **14 of those farms** also participated in the Core Food produce program.
- **Four local seafood distributors** were supported by Core Food purchases.



About MEFAP

The Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) provides food products for residents experiencing food insecurity in the Commonwealth. The program supplies nearly 1,000 local food providers with quality, nutrient-dense foods and locally grown fresh produce through the statewide food bank network. It has also expanded to include locally sourced seafood products since FY21. By reducing food costs for these food assistance partners and providing high-quality nutritious food, MEFAP plays a vital role in reducing hunger.

MEFAP consists of two food purchasing programs:



MassGrown: (January 2025 – December 2025): 9.3% of funding for food purchase.

Core Food: (July 2024-June 2025): 90.7% of funding for food purchases.

Both the Core Food and MassGrown programs within MEFAP are administered by The Greater Boston Food Bank on behalf of the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (FBCMA). This report summarizes both programs for MEFAP Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25).

About The Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts

The Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (FBCMA) includes The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts (FBWM) located in Chicopee, The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) located in Boston, Merrimack Valley Food Bank (MVFB) located in Lowell, and Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB) located in Shrewsbury. Each food bank is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that distributes surplus, reclaimed, and other donated foods, purchased food, and foods provided by USDA through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Feeding America’s county-level food insecurity estimates, as well as clients served, are used to determine the allocation of MEFAP funds to the four food banks. The distribution formula for FY25 MEFAP funds along with changes from FY24 percentages are detailed in Table 1 below.

MEFAP is critical to FBCMA’s ability to provide consistent food to its network of partners. Other food sources for food banks—including federal commodities, federal funding support, and donations from food retailers, manufacturers, and processors—are susceptible to significant change from year to year.



Atlas Farms • Deerfield, MA

TABLE 1

Allocation of FY25 MEFAP Funds within the Food Bank Coalition of MA

FOOD BANK	LOCATION	PERCENTAGE*	% CHANGE
GBFB	Boston	68.20%	▶ 0.07%
WCFB	Shrewsbury	12.47%	▲ 0.36%
FBWM	Hatfield	15.08%	▲ 0.63%
MVFB	Lowell	4.25%	▼ -1.06%

*Percentages based on U.S. Census and Feeding America statistics

TABLE 2

FY25 Massachusetts Regional Food Banks Total Distribution*

FOOD BANK	TOTAL POUNDS FROM ALL SOURCES	% CHANGE	MEFAP % OF TOTAL POUNDS	% CHANGE
GBFB	110,436,246	▲ 5.5%	28.1%	▶ 0.9%
WCFB	8,868,376	▼ -4.8%	55.5%	▲ 17.8%
FBWM	18,059,454	▲ 11.3%	36.3%	▲ 2.6%
MVFB	3,692,627	▼ -5.8%	46.7%	▼ -0.8%
TOTAL	141,056,703	▲ 5.2%	31.4%	▲ 2.3%

*Table includes overall pounds distributed from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

TABLE 3

FY25 MEFAP Distribution*

FOOD BANK	MEFAP CORE FOOD	% CHANGE	MEFAP MASSGROWN	% CHANGE	MEFAP TOTAL POUNDS	MEFAP TOTAL MEALS	% CHANGE
GBFB	27,676,159	▲ 3.5%	3,356,512	▲ 40.2%	31,032,671	25,860,559	▲ 6.5%
WCFB	4,538,299	▲ 10.6%	382,392	▲ 40.1%	4,920,691	4,100,576	▲ 12.1%
FBWM	5,771,369	▲ 10.1%	836,493	▲ 53.8%	6,564,130	5,470,108	▲ 14.3%
MVFB	1,574,010	▼ -7.3%	151,468	▲ 1.7%	1,725,478	1,437,898	▼ -6.6%
TOTAL	39,516,105	▲ 4.6%	4,726,865	▲ 40.7%	44,242,970	36,869,142	▲ 7.6%

*Table includes Core Food pounds distributed from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and MassGrown pounds distributed between Jan 1, 2025 & December 31, 2025.



Fiscal Year 2025 in Review

Core Food July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

MassGrown January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Total Food Distributed by FBCMA

In 2025, the four food banks of FBCMA collectively distributed over 141 million pounds of food. MEFAP accounted for 31.4% of the overall volume of food distributed, roughly 44.2 million pounds. MEFAP funding contributed to a 7.6% increase in total food purchased over FY24.

This increase is due to two reasons:

- 1 The overall increase in funding allowed for more food purchasing.
- 2 FBCMA focused on purchasing nutritious, lower cost food such as fresh produce.

Prioritizing Nutrition

Nutrition is a foundational priority for the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts and the MEFAP program.

In FY25, **96.6% of distributed pounds** met the FBCMA's rigorous standards for nutrition, based on saturated fat, sodium, and sugar content.

Prioritizing Local

MEFAP's impact is twofold: the main objective of MEFAP is to provide food products to populations living with food insecurity by balancing cost, variety, and nutrition. In addition, care is taken to prioritize local purchasing to support the Massachusetts economy.

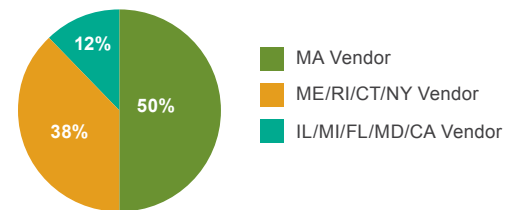
- **50% of all MEFAP dollars were spent with Massachusetts-based suppliers to support the local economy.**
 - 45% of Core Food funding was spent with Massachusetts-based vendors.
 - 100% of MassGrown purchases were from local Massachusetts farms.

Cost of Food

The cost per pound of MEFAP purchases **increased by 9.9%** compared to the prior year: Cost per pound increased from \$0.82/lb to \$0.90/lb.

- **Core Food cost per pound purchased increased by 11.6%** from \$0.82/lb to \$0.91/lb.
- **MassGrown cost per pound decreased by 4.3%** from \$0.81/lb to \$0.78/lb.

CHART 1
FY25 MEFAP Core Food Spend by Vendor State*



* Vendor state indicates location of company headquarters



Program Funding

At \$41.5 million, MEFAP funding increased from the prior year by \$6 million. A breakdown of the funding is contained in Table 4, and a historical summary of MEFAP funding and meals distributed is contained in Table 9. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) manages the food purchasing funds, including funding for the MassGrown Initiative, and the operations fund.

Additional MEFAP funding allows the four food banks to increase distribution levels in the face of historic need. MEFAP is the most important buffer to the volatility of other unstable product sources, as well as a critical source of food in the statewide effort to combat hunger. The stability of MEFAP contracts and supplier relationships underscores the unique and critical role MEFAP plays in the state's hunger relief and local food systems.

TABLE 4
FY25 MEFAP Funding

PROGRAM	FY25 FUNDING
Core Food Funding	\$35,774,603.30
MassGrown	\$3,670,396.70
Operation Funding	\$1,250,000.00
MDAR Administrative Fee	\$805,000.00
TOTAL FUNDING	\$41,500,000.00

MEFAP Food Purchases: Core Food and MassGrown Initiative

Core Food

The Core Food program supports purchases across a wide variety of product categories, allowing the FBCMA to consistently distribute a broad and sustainable assortment of key nutritious products to clients in need.

FBCMA purchased and distributed over 39.5 million pounds of food through the Core Food program, accounting for 91% of total MEFAP distribution. Core Food purchases and distribution statistics are for the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Core Food FY25 Bid and Contracts

Most of the food purchased through the Core Food program is sourced from vendors selected through a competitive bid process. Annual contracts for all items (excluding produce and seafood) are awarded to vendors whose submitted bids offer the best value to the four food banks and state based on a combination of factors, including the following:

- Product pricing
- Price time frames
- Product quality and nutritional value
- Logistical capabilities (service all four food banks)
- Local vendor location vs. out-of-state vendor location
- Company service record and past performance

Food safety documentation is an important Core Food Bid requirement to safeguard populations served by FBCMA and to remain aligned with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. Bidders must provide letters of material guarantee from all manufacturers represented and third-party food safety audit certificates for all food processing facilities. All four food banks were very satisfied with the customer service supplied by the **14 awarded Core Food vendors**.

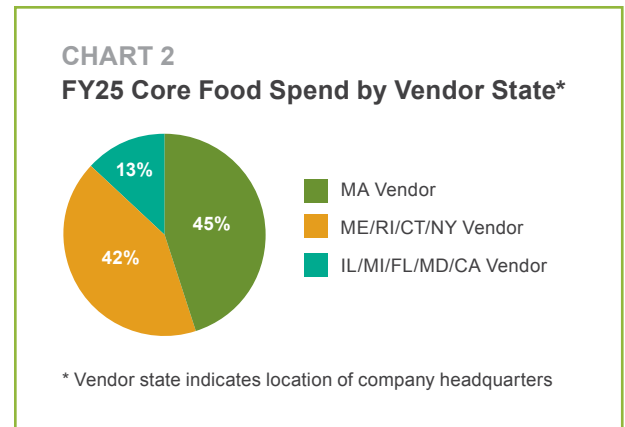




TABLE 5
FY25 Core Food Bid Vendors

VENDOR	LOCATION	ITEMS AWARDED	FY24 SPEND	FY25 SPEND	% CHANGE
Hillandale Farms	Bozrah, CT	Fresh Eggs	\$2,207,738.70	\$4,703,126.40	▲ 113.03%
Port Royal Sales	Woodbury, NY	Canned Fruit & Vegetables, Beans, Spaghetti Sauce, Tuna, Quick Oats, Pasta	\$4,313,614.84	\$4,447,554.97	▲ 3.11%
Broccoli Associates	Utica, NY	Poultry, Halal Chicken, Cheese, Shelf-Stable Milk	\$4,018,896.25	\$3,617,034.00	▼ -10.00%
B & B Trading Corporation	Boston, MA	Poultry, Pork	\$2,344,644.25	\$2,855,747.49	▲ 21.80%
New England Food Bkg. Inc	Stoughton, MA	Ground Beef, Frozen Vegetables, Rice	\$1,982,019.58	\$2,389,820.39	▲ 20.58%
Feeding America	Chicago, IL	Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Soup, Pasta	\$1,501,523.14	\$1,676,409.17	▲ 11.65%
Performance Food Group	Springfield, MA	Yogurt, Oatmeal	\$1,440,909.58	\$1,512,548.35	▲ 4.97%
CEBEV	Chicago, IL	Fruit Juice	\$980,081.86	\$1,179,554.79	▲ 20.35%
F&AM, Inc. DBA Value Added Food Sales	Wayland, MI	Almond Milk, Canned Chicken	\$907,056.72	\$1,134,125.04	▲ 25.03%
The Leavitt Corporation	Everett, MA	Peanut Butter	\$1,315,137.60	\$986,144.60	▼ -25.02%
DFA Dairy Brands/ Garelick Farms	Franklin, MA	Fresh Milk	\$425,697.71	\$607,757.76	▲ 42.77%
Nemco Food Trading Inc.	Lakeville, MA	Canned Vegetables	\$166,339.90	\$261,681.00	▲ 57.32%
Transnational Foods, Inc	Miami, FL	Cereal	\$191,732.80	\$260,729.71	▲ 35.99%
Burnette Foods	Elk Rapids, MI	Applesauce	\$163,520.00	\$129,416.00	▼ -20.86%

Core Food Seafood

FBCMA continues to support the local seafood program established in FY21. In FY25, we expanded this program to support one additional local seafood vendor and increased the range of items.

The program supports the local seafood industry while providing an additional source of nutritious protein items to populations experiencing food insecurity. Local seafood purchasing increased by 15%, for a total of 595,414 pounds of seafood distributed in FY25.



TABLE 6
FY25 Core Food Seafood Vendors

VENDOR	LOCATION	ITEMS PURCHASED	FY24 SPEND	FY25 SPEND	% CHANGE
Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance	Chatham, MA	Clam Chowder, Haddock Chowder, Provencal Stew	\$922,740.00	\$879,384.00	▼ -4.7%
Boston Sword & Tuna	Boston, MA	Tilapia, Pollock, Salmon Tails	\$895,424.00	\$498,950.00	▼ -44.3%
Eastern Fisheries	New Bedford, MA	Sole, Cod, Pollock	\$57,975.00	\$483,610.00	▲ 734.2%
John Nagle Company	Boston, MA	Swordfish & Perch	\$0.00	\$149,261.81	N/A
TOTAL			\$1,906,139	\$2,011,205.81	▲ 5.5%



Core Food Produce

Core Food produce orders are based on weekly availability and item cost from a wide pool of in-state and out-of-state farms, produce providers, suppliers, and brokers. In addition to the \$27.8 million in Core Food spending through the 14 bid vendors and four seafood vendors detailed above, an additional \$8 million in Core Food funds were spent on fresh produce—a 10.4% increase from the prior year.

To increase the volume of fresh produce in the program and help keep overall costs per pound low, **GBFB coordinated purchases of Grade A produce items from a large pool of vendors throughout the year, 16 of which were Massachusetts farms.**



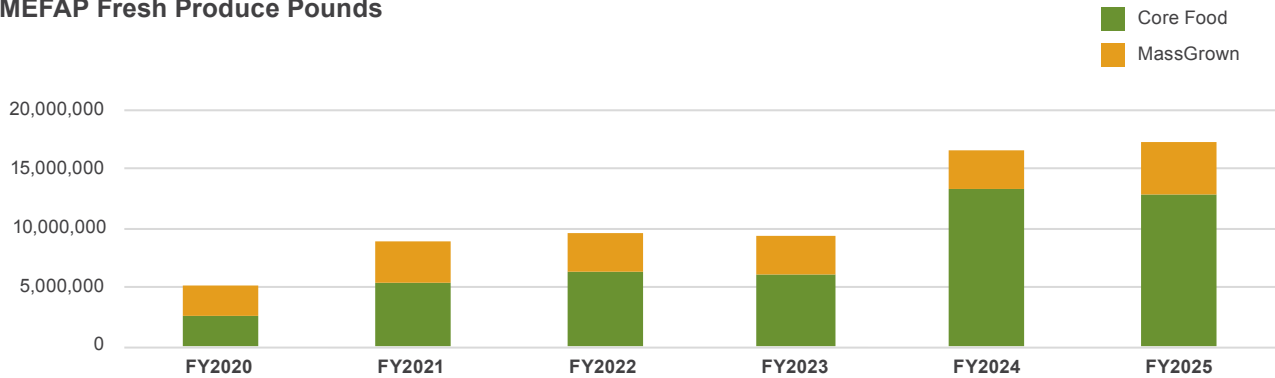
TABLE 7
FY25 Core Food Produce Vendors

VENDOR	LOCATION	ITEMS PURCHASED	FY24 SPEND	FY25 SPEND	% CHANGE
Tourtellot & Co.	Warwick, RI	Apples, Bananas, Berries/Grapes, Cabbages, Citrus, Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Cooking Vegetables, Corn, Exotic Fruit, Melons, Miscellaneous Produce, Onions, Peppers, Pineapples, Potatoes, Root Vegetables (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnips), Salad Vegetables, Squash, Stone Fruit, Tomatoes	\$1,387,401.66	\$1,532,440.44	▲ 10.45%
New England Banana	Chelsea, MA	Exotic Fruit, Yucca, Plantains, Chayote, Pineapple, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Squash	\$1,082,316.08	\$1,397,265.00	▲ 29.10%
DiSilva Fruit	Chelsea, MA	Citrus, Melons, Onions, Potatoes	\$697,517.30	\$901,752.05	▲ 29.28%
P. Tavilla Company, Inc.	Chelsea, MA	Cabbage, Cooking Veg, Corn, Misc. Produce, Peppers, Salad Veg, Squash, Tomatoes	\$284,971.00	\$635,254.00	▲ 122.92%
D'Arrigo Bros. Co. of Massachusetts	Chelsea, MA	Berries/Grapes, Cabbage, Citrus, Cooking Veg, Onions, Potato, Root Veg, Salad Veg	\$0.00	\$631,336.00	N/A
Northeast Produce, Inc.	Plainville, CT	Citrus, Cooking Veg, Peppers, Salad Veg, Squash, Tomatoes	\$420,163.50	\$621,536.00	▲ 47.93%
Boston Area Gleaners, Inc.	Acton, MA	Apples, Cabbage, Cooking Veg, Potatoes, Root Veg, Squash, Stone Fruit	\$413,601.00	\$257,444.00	▼ -37.76%
Joseph P. Sullivan & Co., Inc	Ayer, MA	Apples	\$320,994.00	\$238,924.00	▼ -25.57%
S. Strock & Co. Inc.	Chelsea, MA	Salad Veg	\$246,142.80	\$225,429.15	▼ -8.42%
Western Harvest	Quebec, CAN	Onions, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Squash	\$296,772.42	\$216,514.00	▼ -27.04%
Szawlowski Packers LLC	Hatfield, MA	Potatoes	\$416,062.50	\$205,807.00	▼ -50.53%
Irving Farms, Inc	Caribou, ME	Potatoes	\$373,962.75	\$202,014.75	▼ -45.98%

TABLE 7 (CONTINUED)
FY25 Core Food Produce Vendors

VENDOR	LOCATION	ITEMS PURCHASED	FY24 SPEND	FY25 SPEND	% CHANGE
McKinstry Market Garden, Inc.	Chicopee, MA	Cabbage, Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Cooking Veg, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Squash	\$198,056.00	\$185,276.00	▼ -6.45%
Farmer Dave's LLC	Dracut, MA	Apples, Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Potato, Squash	\$257,670.00	\$182,189.00	▼-29.29%
Michael Davidian dba Davidian's Farm Market LLC	Northborough, MA	Apples, Cabbage, Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Cooking Veg, Corn, Peppers, Tomatoes	\$113,839.00	\$137,558.00	▲ 20.84%
Honey Pot Farm, LLC	Hatfield, MA	Cabbage, Cooking Veg, Peppers, Squash	\$62,832.00	\$100,806.00	▲ 60.44%
Pioneer Valley Growers Association	South Deerfield, MA	Apples, Cabbage, Cooking Veg, Potatoes, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Squash	\$140,128.00	\$78,477.00	▼-44.00%
Ward's Berry Farm	Sharon, MA	Berries/Grapes, Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Cooking Veg, Peppers, Potatoes, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Squash	\$77,084.00	\$71,116.00	▼-7.74%
Family Table LLC	Gaithersburg, MD	Citrus, Cooking Veg, Corn, Exotic Fruit, Melons	\$0.00	\$38,757.00	N/A
Lookout Farms, LLC	South Natick, MA	Pears	\$0.00	\$34,944.00	N/A
New England Apple Products Company	Leominster, MA	Cider	\$28,800.00	\$33,648.00	▲ 16.83%
Green Thumb Farms, Inc.	Fryeburg, ME	Potatoes	\$0.00	\$30,822.00	N/A
Bardwell Farm	Hatfield, MA	Cabbage, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Squash	\$0.00	\$19,230.00	N/A
Hugh Manheim dba Manheim Farm	South Deerfield, MA	Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip)	\$0.00	\$8,250.00	N/A
Green Meadow Farms Inc.	Mapleton, ME	Potatoes	\$0.00	\$7,245.00	N/A
Atlas Farm LLC	Deerfield, MA	Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip)	\$22,400.00	\$4,750.00	▼ -78.79%
Mark Wendolowski dba M.A. Wendolowski Farm LLC	Hatfield, MA	Onions	\$0.00	\$2,100.00	N/A
Ryan Voiland dba Red Fire Farm	Montague, MA	Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip)	\$31,968.00	\$885.00	▼-97.23%

CHART 3
MEFAP Fresh Produce Pounds



Core Food Product Categories and Cost per Pound

The Core Food assortment is intentionally selected each year to provide a consistent supply of highly nutritious staple products with a focus on produce, protein, and dairy. Adjustments to the assortment are made annually based on feedback from FBCMA distribution sites and item performance.

Fresh produce, meat and protein, dairy, and canned or frozen fruits and vegetables comprise 82% of total distribution volume. Potatoes, yucca, plantains, chayote, and citrus fruits were some of the top categories for Core Food produce distributed.

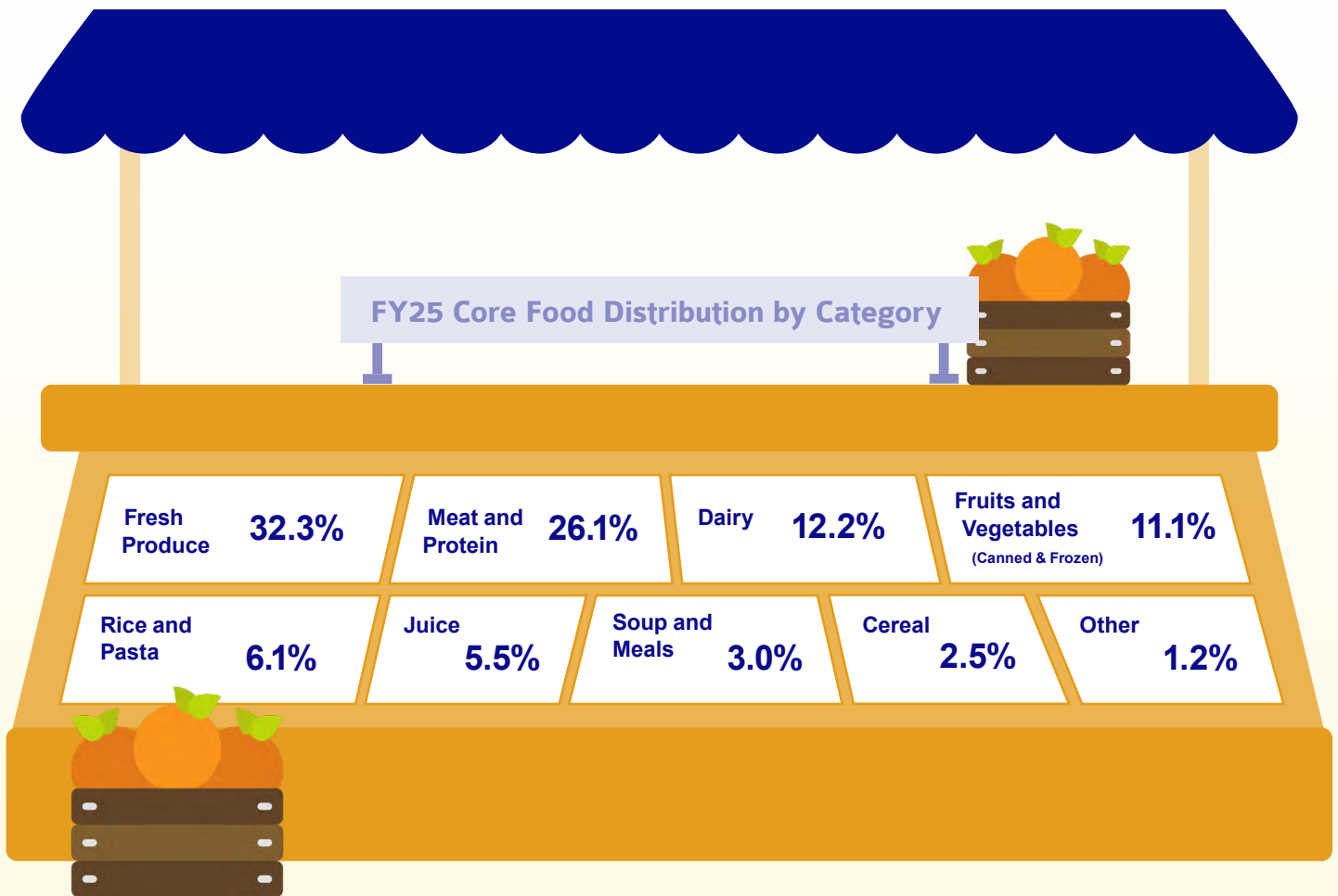
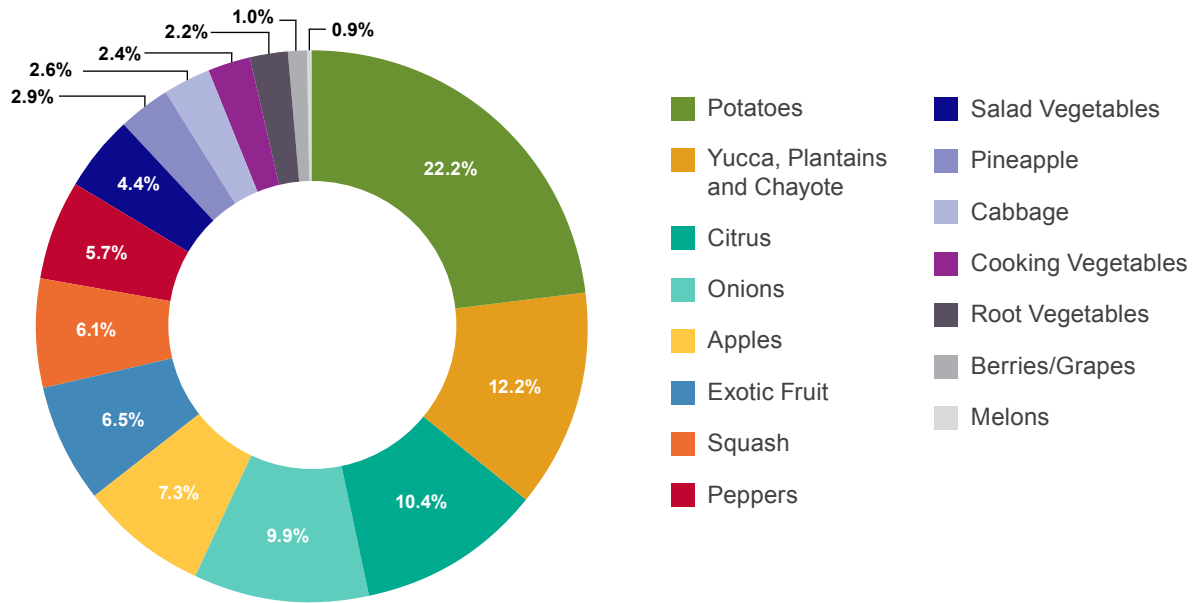


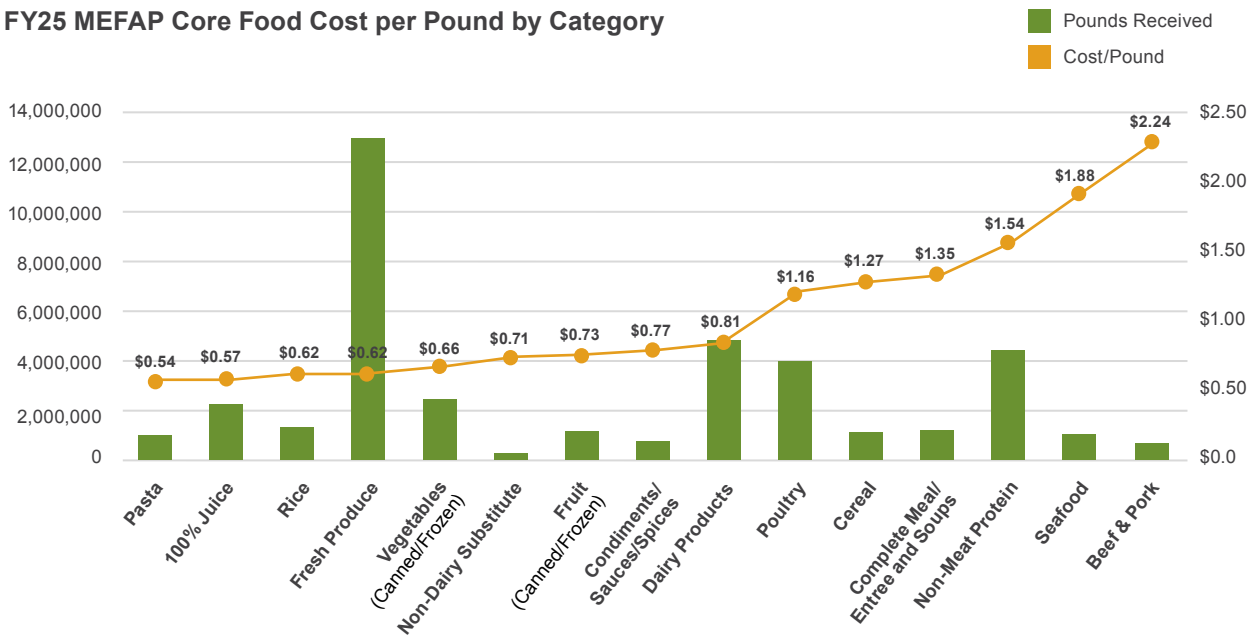
CHART 4
FY25 Core Food Produce Distribution by Product Type



As shown in Chart 5, beef, pork, seafood, and other protein items continue to be some of the highest cost per pound categories in the program. Protein is a focus for FBCMA and the local food assistance partners we serve. Also, dairy, eggs, and meat items can be subject to volatile pricing changes during the year. These higher costs are partially offset by the lower cost per pound of fresh produce and other categories.

Over 10,600 turkeys, representing 0.4% of Core Food funding, were purchased with MEFAP Core Food funds and distributed over the Thanksgiving holiday season. The cost of turkeys decreased this fiscal year from \$1.88 per pound in FY24 to \$1.01 in FY25.

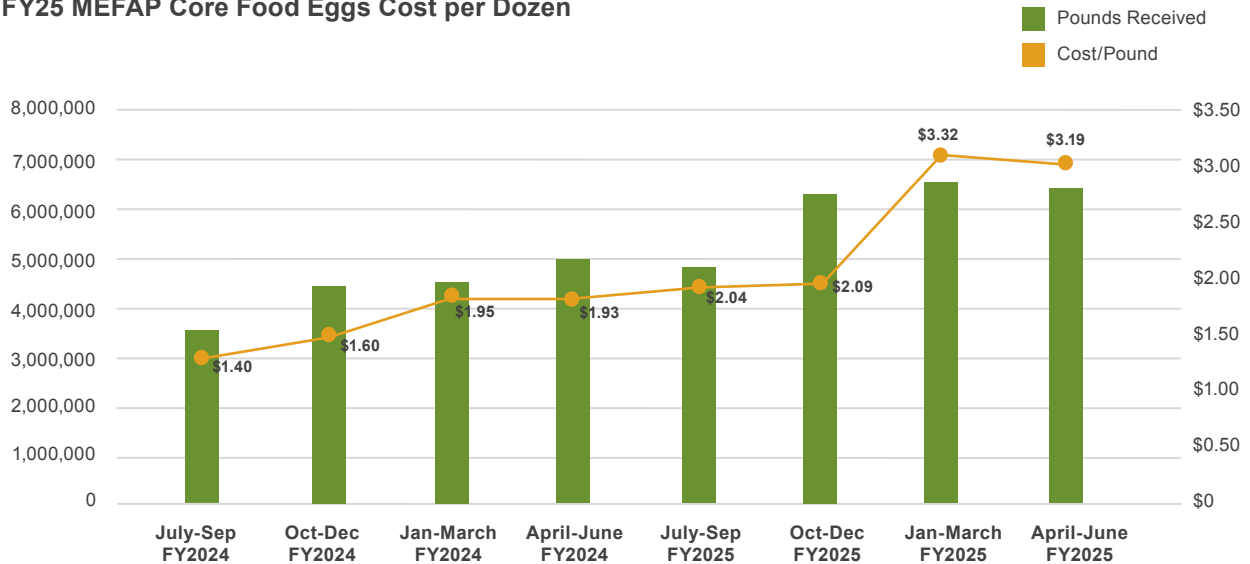
CHART 5
FY25 MEFAP Core Food Cost per Pound by Category



Core Food Eggs

The average cost of eggs increased over 55% from \$1.74/dozen in FY24 to \$2.71/dozen in FY25. As the FBCMA focuses on assisting partners, eggs continue to be a top priority. An additional 470,000 cartons of eggs were purchased in FY25, a 37% increase over the prior year. Additional MEFAP funding allows the four food banks to purchase higher quantities of high-demand protein items.

CHART 6
FY25 MEFAP Core Food Eggs Cost per Dozen



MEFAP has been an extraordinary win-win program for our farm. In 2025, we sold over \$193,000 of produce to the Massachusetts food bank network which provided a vital outlet for our products. Because the food banks are able to take large volume orders we can often discount our products substantially, providing high quality organic produce to the most needy residents of our Commonwealth in an affordable way. The flexibility of the food banks to take items when we have surges in production allows us to move surplus crops when we might otherwise lose them in the field, battling food insecurity and food waste while supporting the local farm economy at the same time. I can't express enough how wonderful this program has been for our farm and for so many others throughout Massachusetts."

Gideon Porth
 Atlas Farm, Deerfield, MA



Massachusetts Grown Initiative

The Massachusetts Grown Initiative (MassGrown) within MEFAP is intended to give individuals experiencing food insecurity access to fresh, local produce, while simultaneously opening a new market for local farmers. For 27 years, the program has successfully reinvested MEFAP funds into the Massachusetts agricultural industry. MassGrown aids the four regional food banks in their effort to maximize the nutritional value of distributed food. As the food banks continue to focus on increasing the volume of fresh produce and nutrient-rich food acquired and distributed, the MassGrown initiative provides a vital opportunity to source top quality products locally. Due to the seasonality of the Massachusetts growing season, MassGrown purchases and distribution statistics are for the period of January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

MassGrown Spend and Partner Farms

MassGrown funding was \$3.67 million—an increase of \$944K over FY24. This is a 35% increase in funding to support local farms. MassGrown represented 9.3% of total food purchase funding.

FBCMA distributed **4.73 million pounds of Massachusetts Grown produce, dairy, and poultry. This is a 40.7% increase in food distributed in this category.**

Each food bank selects their own percentage of total funding for food to apply towards MassGrown. GBFB allocated 10% of their food purchase funding for MassGrown. FBWM allocated 9%, WCFB allocated 7%, and MVFB allocated 6%. **The FBCMA will continue to prioritize allocating funding towards the MassGrown initiative as more farms come on board and as we advocate for increased MEFAP funding.**



Boston Area Gleaners is committed to increasing access for fresh, healthy, locally grown produce in our community. Farmers are at the center of our work and MEFAP provides a critical pathway for local farmers to feed their neighbors and continue to be viable. We are honored to help connect farmers in the Commonwealth with the food banks across the state who ensure that locally grown produce reaches everyone."

Usha Thakrar

Boston Area Gleaners, Acton, MA



Boston Area Gleaners • Acton, MA

MassGrown Diversity of Farms

Food bank community partners appreciated the variety as well as the quality of the local, fresh produce available during the most recent MassGrown season. FBCMA continues to diversify its MassGrown partnerships with additional farms signing contracts to sell their products to the FBCMA.

This year our largest partner was Davidian's Farm Market, which had a 43.5% increase in spending. Another one of our largest MassGrown partners continues to be the Pioneer Valley Growers Association (PVGA), which sources from 40 partner farms across Western Massachusetts.

The spend has continued to move away from a concentration on the top 4-5 partner farms and larger local brokers toward independent family farms as shown in Table 8. We have also continued to build on our partnership with the Boston Area Gleaners, which sources food from many Massachusetts farms that may not have the means to meet our capacity standards on their own. We hope to continue this trend of broadening participation in the program.

TABLE 8
FY25 MassGrown Farms

VENDOR	LOCATION	ITEMS AWARDED	FY24 SPEND	FY25 SPEND	% CHANGE
Michael Davidian dba Davidian's Farm Market LLC	Northborough, MA	Apples, Cabbage, Cooking Veg, Corn, Peppers, Salad Veg, Squash, Stone Fruit, Tomatoes	\$469,748.34	\$674,147.97	▲ 43.51%
Farmer Dave's LLC	Dracut, MA	Apples, Cider, Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Cooking Veg, Onions, Peppers, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Salad Veg, Squash	\$358,798.82	\$517,848.75	▲ 44.33%
Honey Pot Farm, LLC	Hatfield, MA	Cabbage, Cooking Veg, Melons, Peppers, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Salad Veg, Squash, Tomatoes	\$344,204.00	\$427,039.00	▲ 24.07%
Pioneer Valley Growers Association	South Deerfield, MA	Apples, Cabbage, Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Cooking Veg, Corn, Melons, Onions, Peppers, Potatoes, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Salad Veg, Squash, Tomatoes	\$317,514.00	\$335,329.00	▲ 5.61%
Boston Area Gleaners, Inc.	Acton, MA	Apples, Cabbage, Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Cooking Veg, Corn, Peppers, Potatoes, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Salad Veg, Squash	\$226,851.40	\$330,809.83	▲ 45.83%
McKinstry Market Garden, Inc.	Chicopee, MA	Cabbage, Cooking Greens (Collards/ Kale), Cooking Veg, Corn, Misc. Produce, Peppers, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Salad Veg, Squash, Tomatoes	\$271,221.00	\$294,644.00	▲ 8.64%
Ward's Berry Farm	Sharon, MA	Berries/Grapes, Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Cooking Veg, Misc. Produce, Onions, Peppers, Potatoes, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Salad Veg, Squash, Tomatoes	\$114,331.00	\$222,369.00	▲ 94.50%
Atlas Farm LLC	Deerfield, MA	Cabbage, Cooking Greens (Collards/ Kale), Cooking Veg, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Tomatoes	\$84,835.00	\$124,970.00	▲ 47.31%
Szawlowski Packers LLC	Hatfield, MA	Onions, Potatoes	\$108,262.50	\$117,438.00	▲ 8.48%
Our Family Farms	Leyden, MA	Creamers, Milk	\$0.00	\$109,314.60	N/A
Lookout Farms, LLC	South Natick, MA	Pears, Stone Fruit	\$78,720.00	\$108,660.00	▲ 38.03%
Mapleline Farm LLC	Hadley, MA	Milk	\$88,366.07	\$97,504.72	▲ 10.34%
Plainville Farm	Hadley, MA	Cabbage, Cooking Veg, Melons, Peppers, Salad Veg, Squash, Stone Fruit	\$12,195.00	\$79,274.00	▲ 550.05%
Hugh Manheim dba Sugar Mountain Packing LLC	South Deerfield, MA	Cooking Veg, Corn, Peppers, Squash	\$89,468.00	\$61,666.00	▼ -31.07%

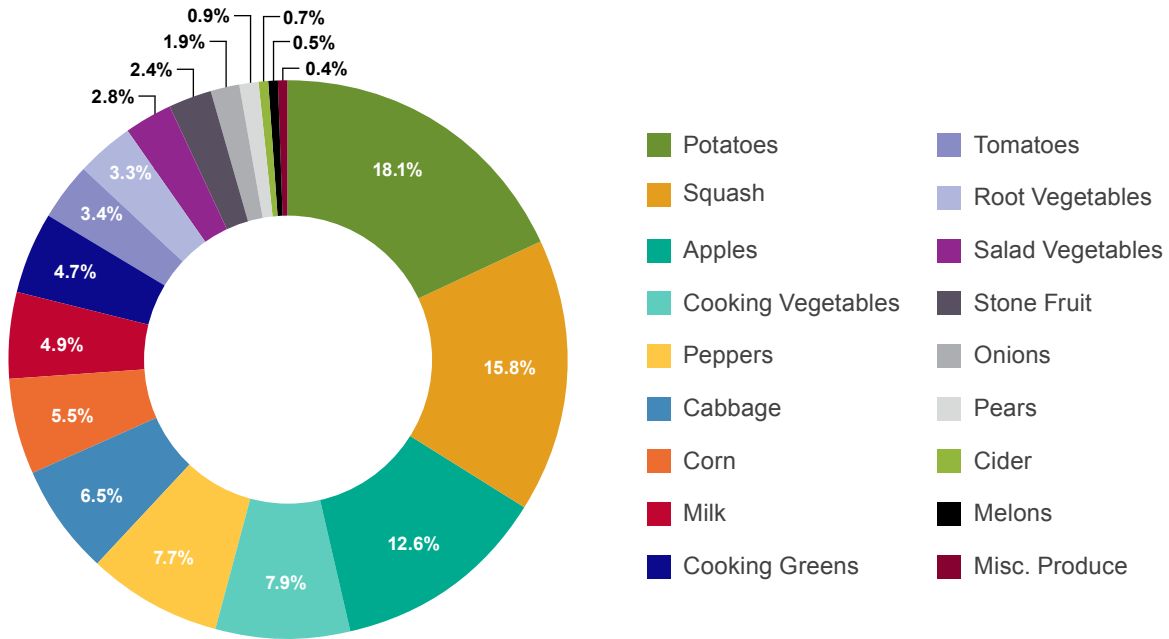
TABLE 8 (CONTINUED)
FY25 MassGrown Farms

VENDOR	LOCATION	ITEMS AWARDED	FY24 SPEND	FY25 SPEND	% CHANGE
Mark Wendolowski dba M.A. Wendolowski Farm LLC	Hatfield, MA	Cabbage, Onions, Peppers, Squash	\$33,461.25	\$43,402.00	▲ 29.71%
Bardwell Farm	Hatfield, MA	Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Cooking Veg, Onions, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip), Salad Veg	\$0.00	\$43,051.00	N/A
Joe Czajkowski Farm	Hadley, MA	Cooking Greens (Collards/Kale), Corn, Potatoes	\$6,782.50	\$32,946.00	▲ 385.75%
Mountain View Farms, LLC	Easthampton, MA	Cabbage, Root Veg (Carrots, Parsnips, Turnip)	\$0.00	\$31,142.05	N/A
New England Apple Products Company	Leominster, MA	Cider	\$9,696.00	\$14,688.00	▲ 51.49%
Ryan Voiland dba Red Fire Farm	Montague, MA	Cabbage	\$23,362.00	\$4,150.65	▼ -82.23%



McKinstry Market Garden, Inc. • Chicopee, MA

CHART 7
FY25 MEFAP MassGrown Pounds by Category



Product Variety Mix

The variety of produce offered by Massachusetts farms has been instrumental in supplementing other food bank produce sources. It is crucial that food banks can source staple products, such as potatoes, apples, onions, carrots, cabbage, and fresh milk, through MassGrown.

Together, potatoes, squash, apples, and cooking vegetables, **such as eggplant & bok choy**, make up more than half of the MassGrown produce pounds distributed. **Potatoes were the highest volume category in 2025**, accounting for over 18% of the MassGrown distribution.

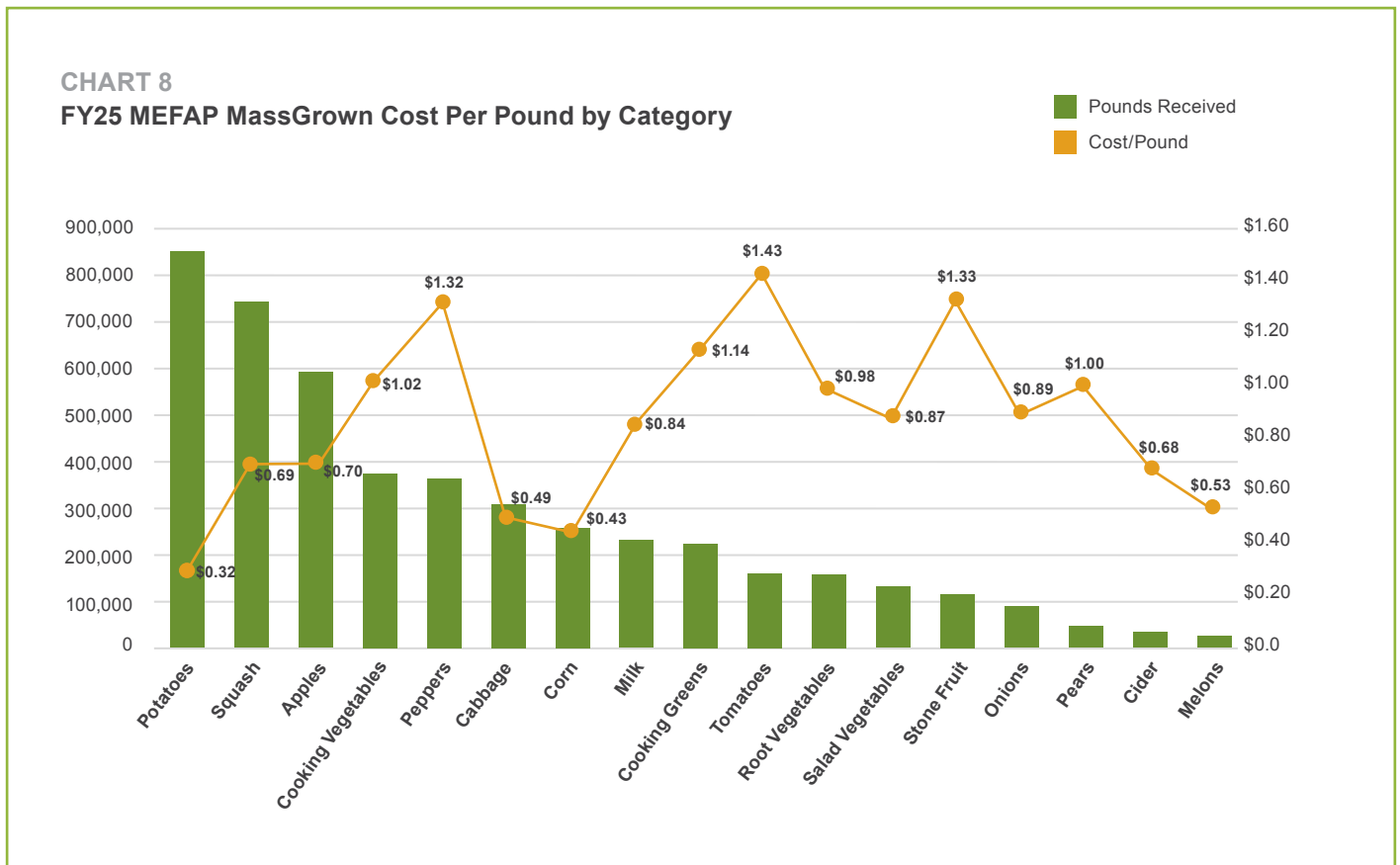
An increased variety of locally grown items continues to be a priority for FBCMA. Locally produced milk and dairy items are also a focus, making up 4.9% of total MassGrown volume.



Atlas Farms • Deerfield, MA

MassGrown Cost Per Pound

There was an overall decrease of 4.3% in the cost paid per pound across all categories procured through the MassGrown program. Chart 8 details MassGrown cost per pound by produce category in FY25.



Everyday on our farm, we see what it takes to grow food that families rely on. MEFAP and our partnership with the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts have made it possible for us to do that work with pride and purpose. Because we have a dependable outlet for our produce, we can keep a year-round crew, invest in growing more storage crops, and extend our season so fresh, local food reaches families long after the summer harvest. This program doesn't just move food—it supports the people who grow it, the people who eat it, and the connection between Massachusetts farms and the communities they serve. That's why it means so much to us."

Will McKinstry
 McKinstry Farms, Chicopee, MA



McKinstry Market Garden, Inc. • Chicopee, MA

Operating Funding Supports Distribution

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) manages operating funds to support the distribution of food and retains a fee no greater than 2% to administer the program. The food banks use the percentages in Table 1 to equitably allocate operating funds according to poverty statistics for the population served by each food bank. Food bank operating funds increased from \$1 million to \$1.25 million in FY25. The operating funds are applied to the costs of labor associated with receiving, warehousing, transporting, and distributing MEFAP products. Table 9 below details the recent funding history for the program, which began in 1995 with \$1 million in total funding. FBCMA continues to raise additional private funds to cover the full cost of program distribution.

TABLE 9
MEFAP Funding History

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL FUNDING	OPERATING FUNDS*	ADMIN. FEE RETAINED BY MDAR	MASSGROWN INITIATIVE FUNDING	CORE FOOD FUNDING	MEALS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH MEFAP
		DOE 7051-0015		DFA 2511-0105	DFA 2511-0105	
2011	\$12,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$230,000	\$690,000	\$10,580,000	14,122,817
2012	\$12,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$230,000	\$690,000	\$10,580,000	12,641,443
2013	\$13,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$240,000	\$720,000	\$11,040,000	13,838,476**
2014	\$14,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$260,000	\$780,000	\$11,960,000	16,089,423
2015	\$15,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$280,000	\$840,000	\$12,880,000	16,697,380
2016	\$17,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$320,000	\$1,088,704	\$14,591,296	18,819,628
2017	\$17,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$320,000	\$1,222,048	\$14,457,952	20,979,361
2018	\$17,413,831	\$1,000,000	\$328,277	\$1,229,065	\$14,856,489	22,356,343
2019	\$18,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$340,000	\$1,284,027	\$15,375,972	22,653,636
2020	\$20,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$380,000	\$1,437,519	\$17,182,480	23,404,229
2021	\$30,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$580,000	\$2,190,698	\$26,229,301	29,353,645
2022	\$30,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$580,000	\$2,201,129	\$26,218,871	29,579,198
2023	\$30,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$580,000	\$2,201,129	\$26,218,871	25,191,218
2024	\$35,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$690,000	\$2,726,609	\$31,083,390	34,268,750
2025	\$41,500,000	\$1,250,000	\$805,000	\$3,670,396	\$39,445,000	36,869,142
2026	\$49,452,551	\$1,250,000	\$964,051	\$4,720,738	\$42,517,761	TBD

*Operating funding includes funds provided to FBCMA and the administration fee retained by the MDAR.

**The formula for calculating meals distributed was adjusted in FY13 from 1.3 pounds of food / a meal to 1.2 pounds.

Note: Nutrition Education Funding was provided within MEFAP at \$150,000 from 1999-2002 and at \$75,000 in 2003.



Conclusion

The Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (FBCMA) remains steadfast in its commitment to maximizing the impact of MEFAP funding to provide vital resources to those facing food insecurity.

By prioritizing in-state partnerships, responding strategically to challenging market conditions, and carefully stewarding funding, FBCMA maximizes the impact of MEFAP. In FY25, FBCMA distributed more than 44.2 million pounds of food through MEFAP, representing a 7.6% increase from the prior year. This growth reflects MEFAP's critical role in ensuring stability in the FBCMA's food distribution system despite the unpredictability of food sources like USDA, donated foods, or pricing of staple items such as eggs.

MEFAP plays a vital role in strengthening the local economy and supporting the local food system. In FY25, 50% of all MEFAP dollars—\$19.7 million—was invested in Massachusetts-based suppliers, with 31 of 46 Core Food vendors located in the state. Through MassGrown, FBCMA supported 20 Massachusetts farms, including smaller family farms and organizations like the Pioneer Valley Growers Association and the Boston Food Hub/Boston Area Gleaners. **FBCMA supports the focus of increasing fresh, locally grown produce to reach residents across the Commonwealth while reinforcing the resilience of the local agricultural sector.**

As we continue to tackle food insecurity in the Commonwealth, FBCMA relies on consistently increased MEFAP funding. MEFAP remains a critical part of the local food system and is the largest single source of food purchasing funding for the Food Banks. Without MEFAP, FBCMA would not have been able to distribute an unprecedented 141 million pounds of food over the past year.

FBCMA and their teams would like to acknowledge the support of MDAR, the Governor's Office, the Lieutenant Governor's Office, and the Legislature for their commitment to helping end hunger in Massachusetts. For more information on the specific programs and activities of FBCMA note the contact information on the following page.

To learn more, contact:

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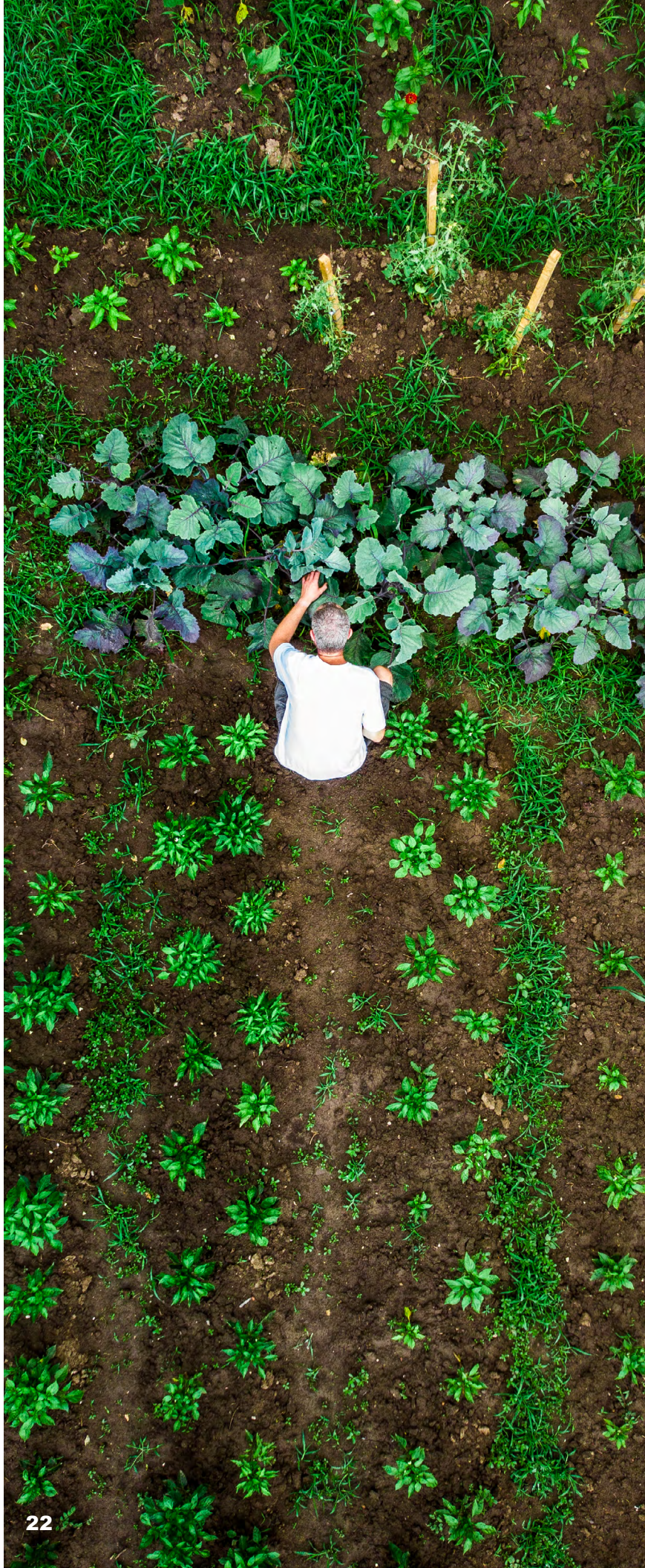
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