HEALTHY ROOTS COLLABORATIVE GLEANING PROGRAM 2021

HRC ADVISORY COMMITTEE, MARCH 2022

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- 45,000 pounds gleaned
- 52,786 total pounds distributed (gleaned from local farms and rescued food)
- 33,620 Everyone Eats meals
- 2 new food justice collaborations

MORE HIGHLIGHTS

- Field trips again!
- 132 individual volunteers
  511 volunteer hours
- Co-gleaning with other gleaning orgs at 3 farms
- Serving as Vermont Gleaning Collective co-chair since March 2021

HRC'S GLEANING PROGRAM OVER TIME

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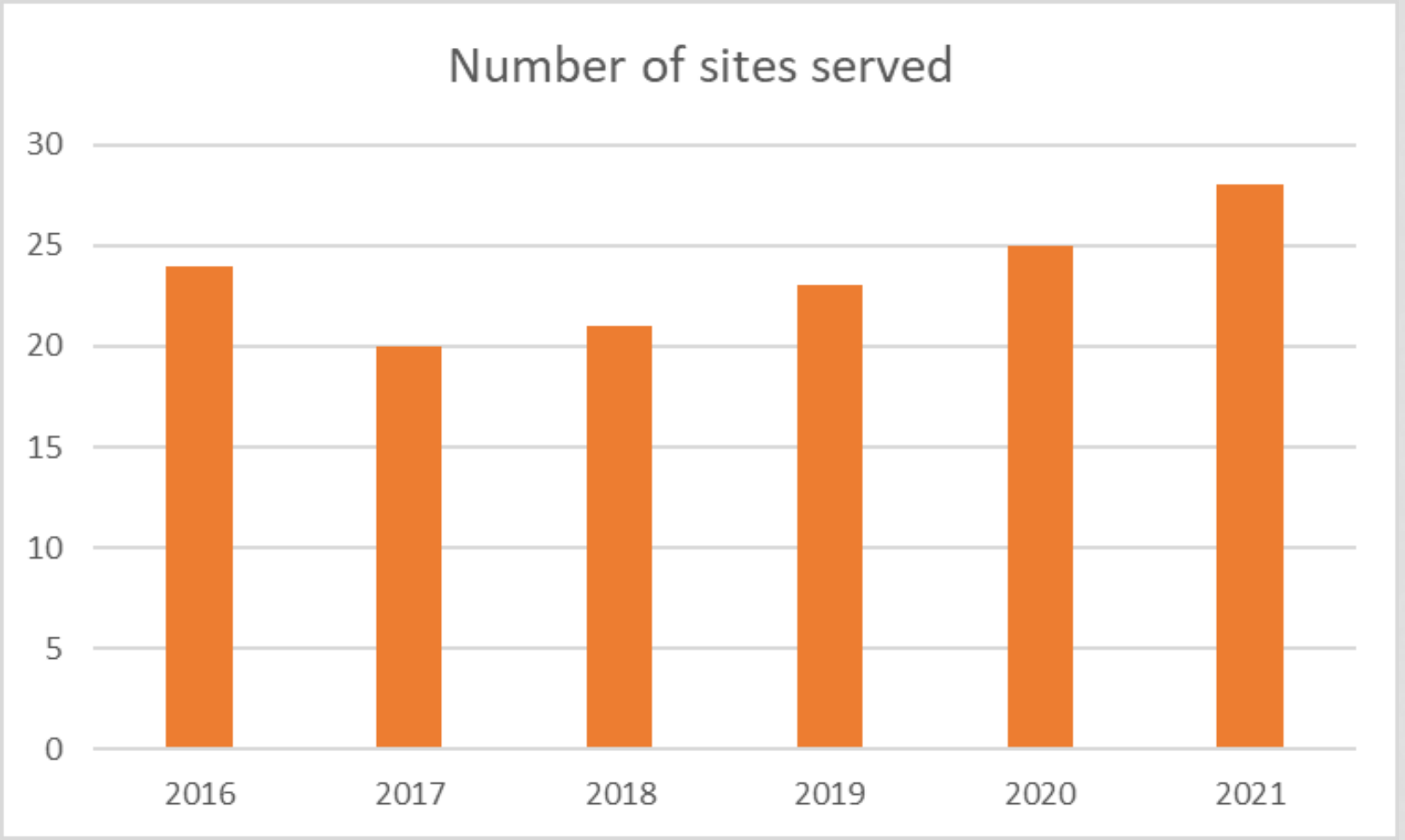

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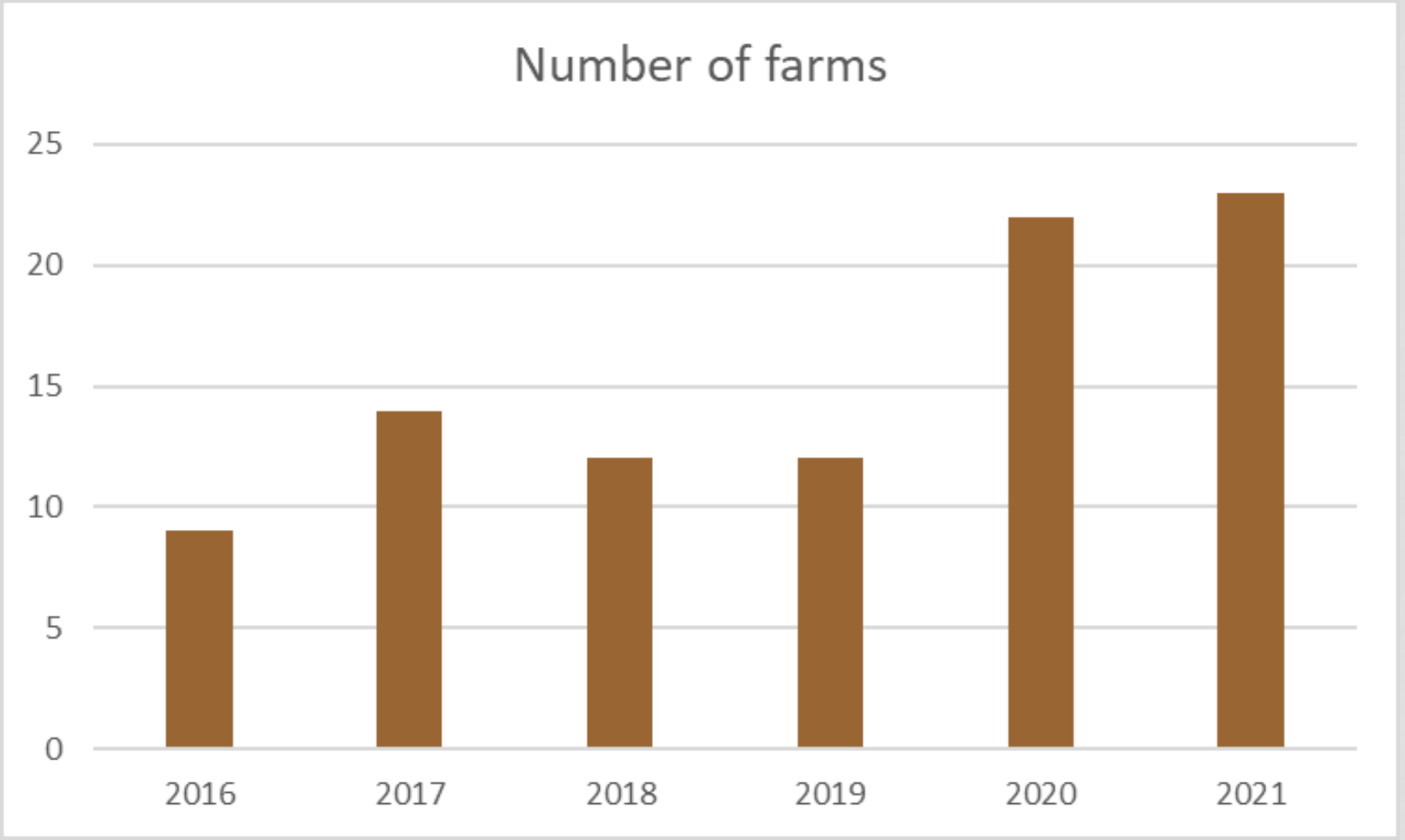

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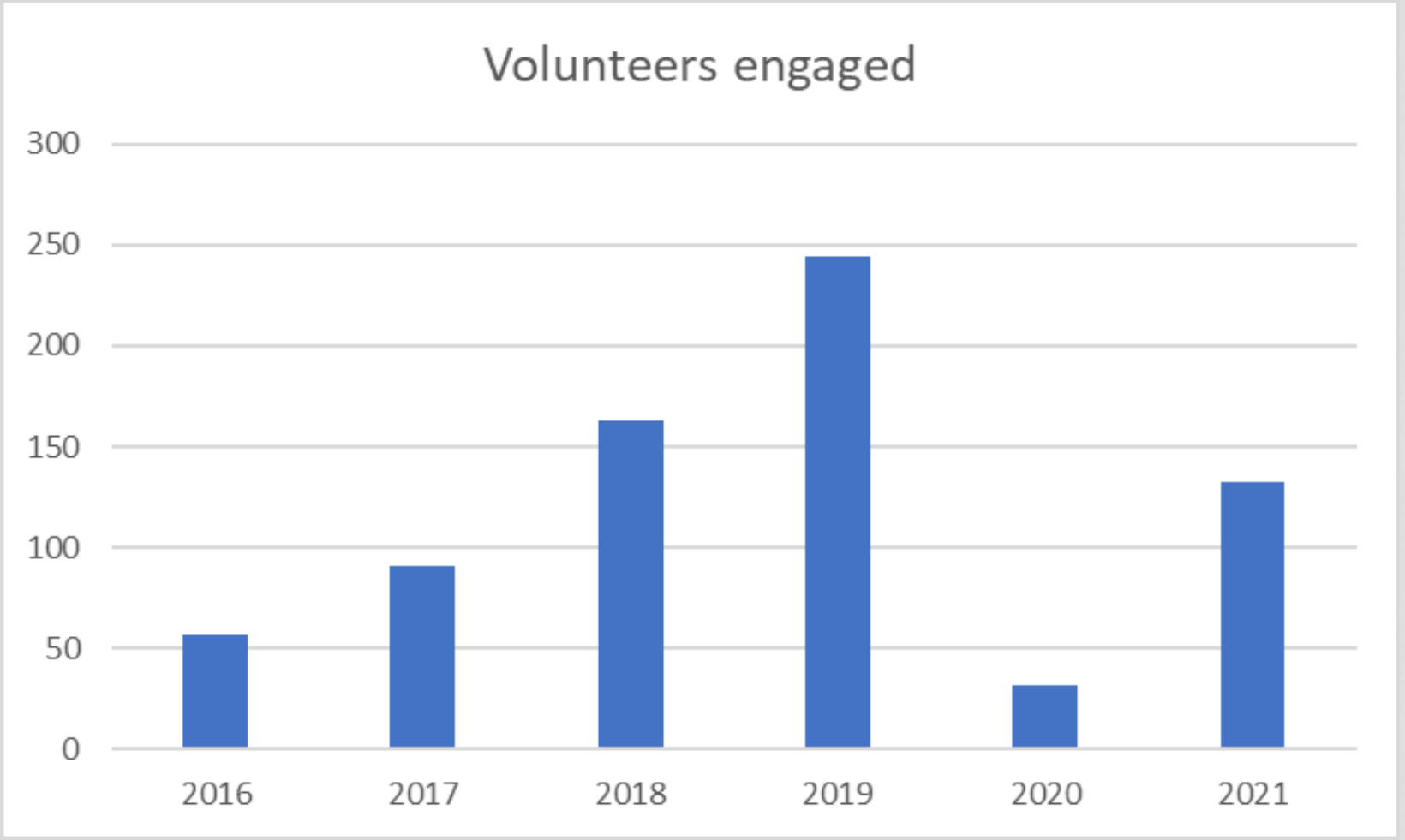
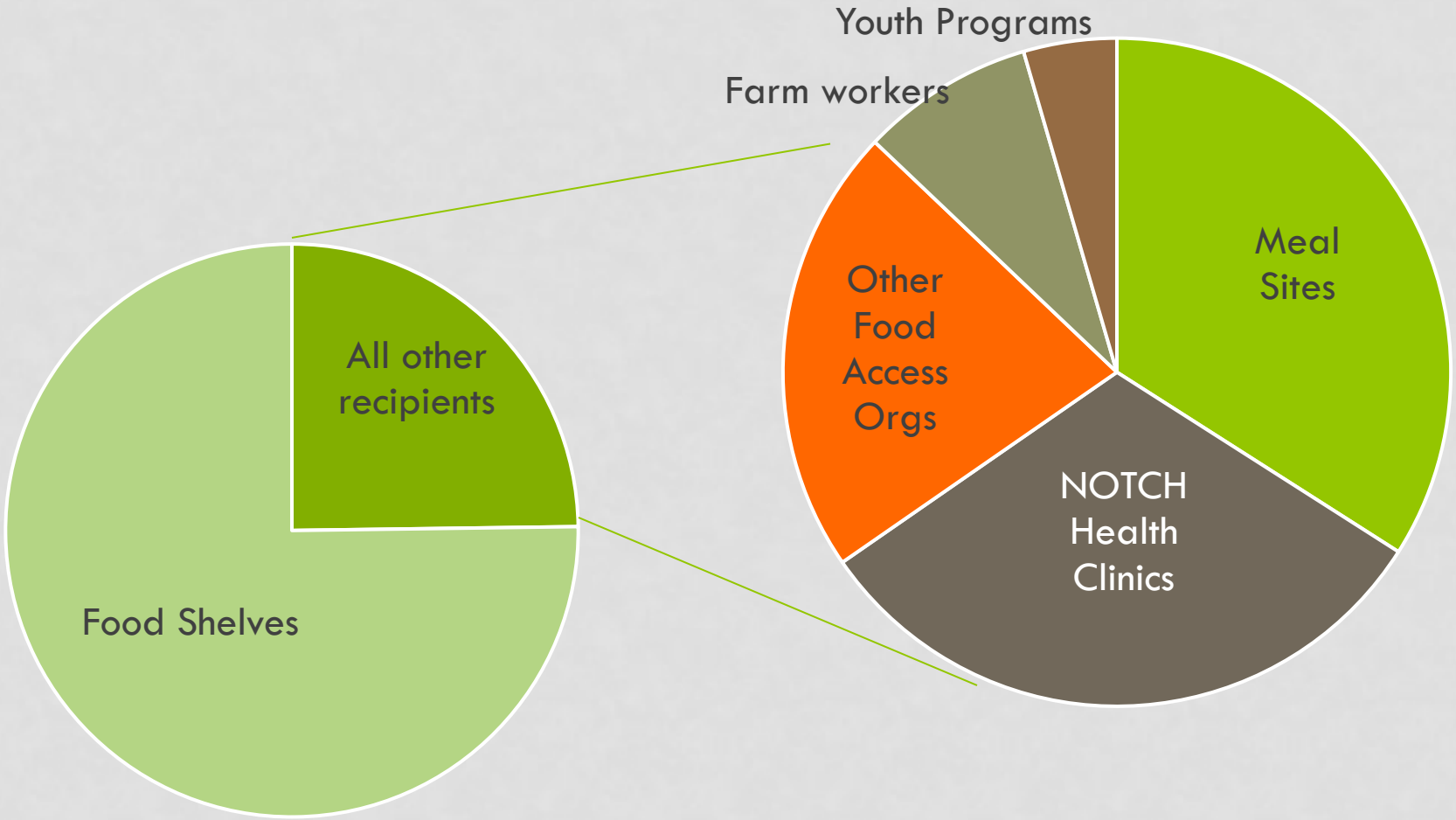


SERVED 28 RECIPIENT SITES

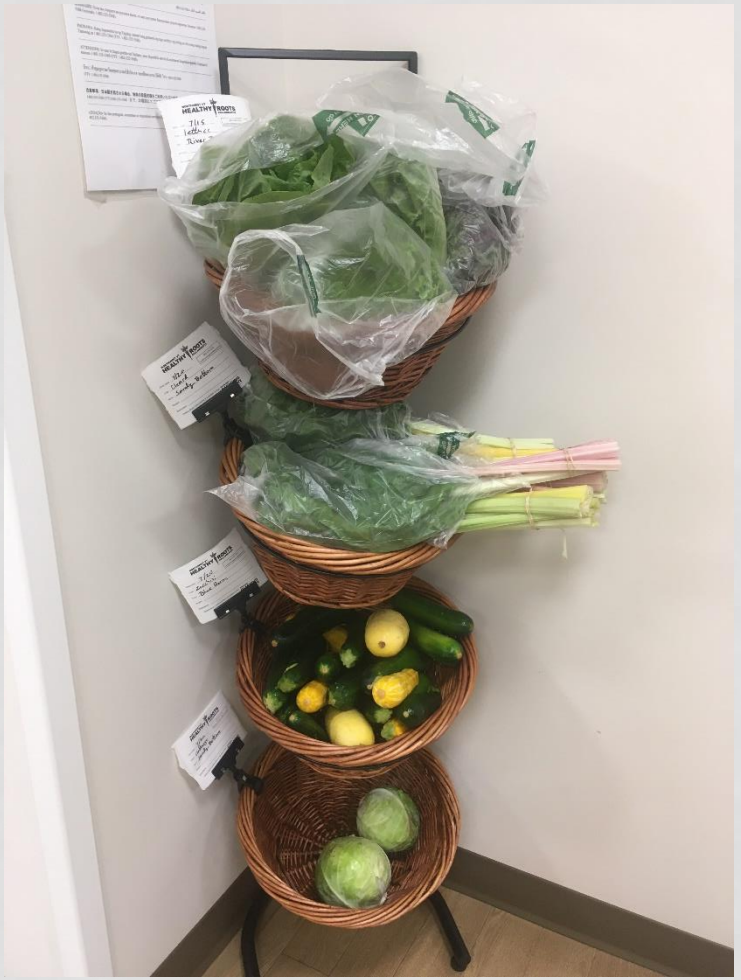
17 CHARITABLE FOOD SITES, 11 NON-TRADITIONAL SITES

WHERE FOOD GOES



CHANGE IN POUNDS BY SITE

- Deliveries increased for 88% of sites
- The average increase was 691 pounds



FEEDBACK FROM RECIPIENT SITES

(15 RESPONDENTS)

- 60% saw an increase in clients in 2021
- 93% were satisfied or very satisfied with produce quality
- On average only 9% of gleaned produce went to waste (animal feed, compost, or trash).
- 93% said the amount and frequency of produce received was just right
- Most popular veggies: sweet corn, tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, greens, lettuce, squash, apples, and any fruit

STORIES

Our guests are grateful to have fresh fruits and vegetables. They exchange stories with our volunteers about their mother's use of dandelion greens or wolf river apples. In general, they are willing to try an unfamiliar vegetable.

We had quite a few patients inquire about where it had come from, how to prepare it, and a lot of people looked forward to it.

It allows us to purchase even more food from local farmers because we know we'll have the extra gleaned produce.

Our clientele is older and has limited physical ability. Having fresh food wasn't so much about teaching or changing folks. It was more about dignity to choose. What works best for you - fresh, canned, or frozen? Or a combination? Having all meant no one was forced to use something they didn't want or to go without. We love having it. And some of our folks used to be growers themselves but can't anymore. They love the access.

RECEIVED PRODUCE FROM 23 FARMS

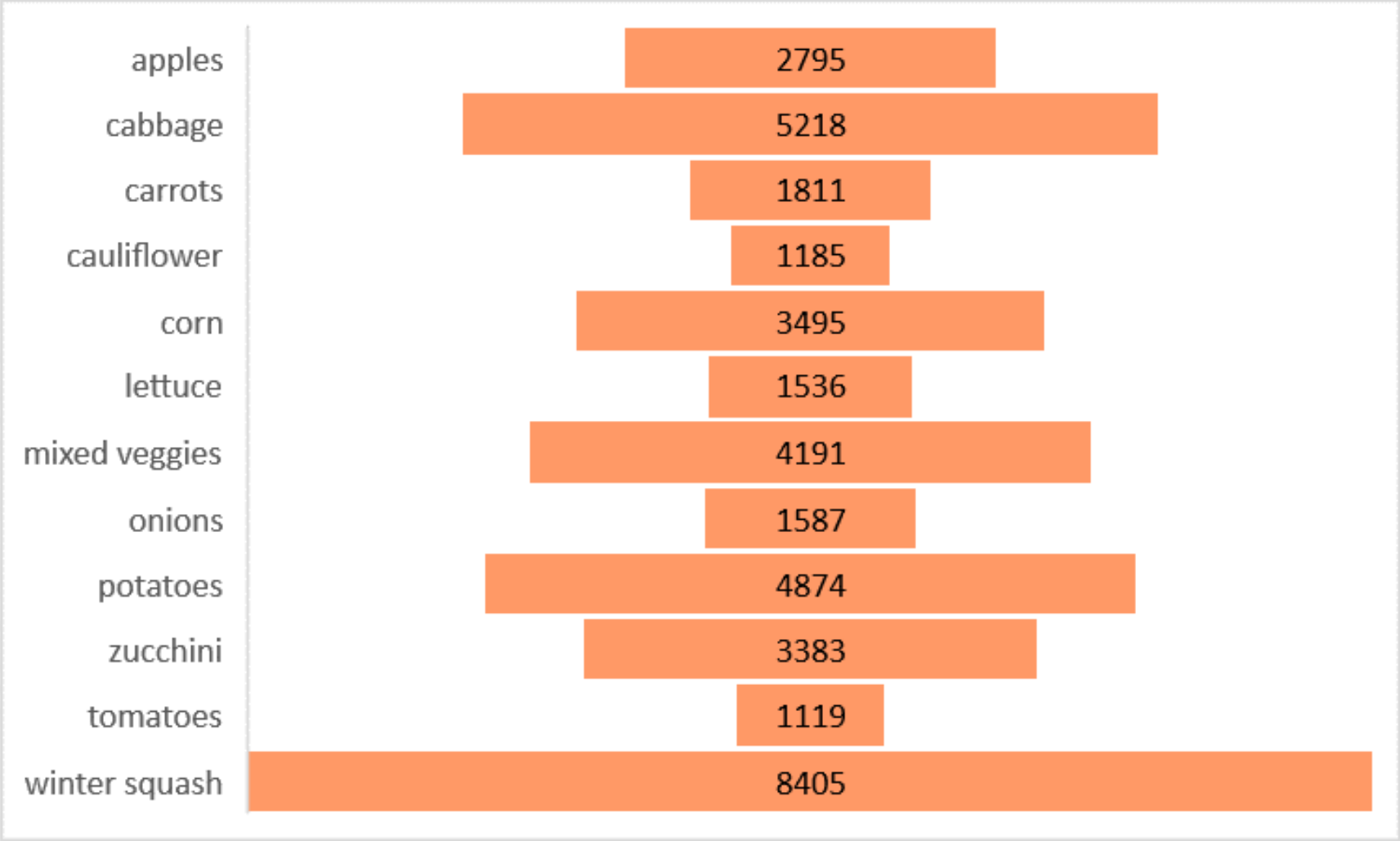
AND NONFARM PARTNERS

HIGHLIGHTED FARM PARTNERSHIPS

- 16 Farms, 4 partner orgs, 3 donation gardens, 1 home orchard
- 9 donated over 1,000 pounds, 1 donated over 12,000 pounds
- 12 provided field gleaning, 11 offered pick up of seconds
- 4 hosted gleaning field trips
- 2 farms had almost weekly summer and fall gleans
- 1 farm provided regular winter pick up

TOP 12 CROPS

40 DIFFERENT VEGGIES TOTAL



132 VOLUNTEERS

511 VOLUNTEER HOURS

HIGHLIGHTS

- 7 school field trip and 1 church youth group
- 14 volunteers drove 2,693 miles for deliveries
- 7 individuals volunteered 5 or more times
- 21 volunteered with HRC for the first time

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK

- 50% of survey respondents reported that gleaning had motivated them to also purchase more from local farms

- "It's been a great experience. Being a small part of reducing food waste and making food more accessible to those experiencing food insecurity is a good feeling."

FOOD JUSTICE COLLABORATIONS

ABENAKI LAND LINK PROJECT AND WEST FARM CSA

- 567 pounds of Land Link squash, beans, and corn grown for the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation
- Land Link event at West Farm led by Chief Don Stevens
- 10 winter and 10 summer CSA shares delivered to the Abenaki Food Shelf. Funded by the Vermont Land Trust.

MIGRANT FARM WORKER BOXES

- Collaboration with Bridges to Health and Northwest Family Foods
- More than 940 pounds of culturally preferred veggies
- At least 6 farms contributed

LOOKING FORWARD

- Continuing Food Justice efforts – we hope to continue both the farm worker food boxes and growing for the Abenaki community
- Donation plots – we will continue the donation plot at West Farm and partner with West Shore Farm on a new donation plot
- Infrastructure – we are excited to plan and build our own cold storage and packing space generously provided by The Abbey Group/Blue Sky Foods
- We plan to focus on more than pounds this year through efforts to improve quality, presentation, farm connections, and provide recipes
- We will continue exploring way to uphold our values through gleaning

REFERENCE SHEET

- Vermont Everyone Eats meals prepared by local businesses with VT ingredients
- Vermont Gleaning Collective HRC is one of six member organization of VGC
- NOTCH clinics Low income health clinics where we are providing gleaned produce displayed in stands
- Abenaki Land Link Project Growing traditional crops for and returning seeds to the Abenaki community
- Bridges to Health A UVM extension program helping migrant farmworkers to access health care, garden space, and culturally appropriate foods
- CSWD/Salvation Farms infrastructure funds will go to purchasing a cooler and equipment to fit out the space to be provided by Blue Sky Packing.
- VCDP (Vermont Community Development Program) grant funds awarded to HRC are allocated for food distribution to these qualifying communities: St. Albans City, Richford, senior food programs, NOTCH health clinics, and the migrant farm worker food box program.