

2024 GLEANING ORIENTATION INFORMATION

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1. INTRO TO PROJECT

The Alberni Valley Food Security Society welcomes you to the 2024 season of The Gleaning Project! Your participation benefits the entire community and increases access to local nutritious and delicious food. The Alberni Valley Gleaning Project started in 2012 and collects an average 11,000 pounds of fruit every year. It is a food recovery project that connects volunteer fruit

pickers with property owners that have excess or unwanted fruit. Of what is harvested, $\frac{1}{3}$ goes to the property owners, $\frac{1}{3}$ to the pickers, and $\frac{1}{3}$ to support local food security initiatives.

When there is more fruit than the pickers and property owners want, it is sold to raise funds for the project. There is a membership fee of \$20 for individuals and \$30 for households. This fee helps to cover the cost of insurance, administration, equipment, and other program expenses. There is no cost to property owners/pick hosts for signing up their fruit trees with the Gleaning Project.



2. STEPS FOR PICKERS

1. Fill in our volunteer picker survey on our website here: <https://www.avfood.ca/picker>
2. Read and sign the AVFSS Participation Agreement Form - [View Document](#)
3. Commit to attend an orientation session or view the [virtual orientation video](#)



4. Pay membership fee via e-transfer to gleaning@avfood.ca to receive information
5. Sign up for picks by responding to emails from gleaning@avfood.ca

3. WHAT TO BRING TO A PICK

- Wear appropriate clothing (clothing you can get dirty, closed toed shoes, gloves, hat)
- Water and snacks
- Your own bags or boxes to bring your fruit home

4. PICK OVERVIEW

- All volunteers will receive an email with information about an upcoming pick; what time, which day, which fruit, and how many pickers are needed.
- Interested pickers will reply to the email. We welcome everyone over the age of 10, be prepared to put in some work for your share of the harvest!
- Address is given to selected pickers, based on an equitable selection process.
- Pickers show up at the arranged time and place with appropriate clothing and a box/bag to take their fruit home in.
- Unload equipment from the trailer/truck.
- Rake up and collect the ground-fall (for compost or livestock).
- Lay down tarps under the trees, only when necessary.
- Harvest fruit.
- Weigh and divide fruit - 1/3 to volunteers, 1/3 to homeowners, 1/3 for food security initiatives (the specific policies are elsewhere and can be explained at the time).
- Maximum time commitment per pick is 2 hours.

5. SAFETY FOR 3-LEGGED ORCHARD LADDERS

- If on a slope, place the single leg up hill
- Do not use on cement or smooth surfaces
- Check angle by lining toes up with baseline and stretching out arm
- Don't put items on top that could fall
- Don't reach out too far
- Your hips should not go above the top of the ladder
- Don't step on the top step
- Make sure the latch of the single leg is closed when handling the ladder
- Pick bag is on your chest and the straps are across your back

6. REPORTING WILDLIFE CONFLICTS OR DISTRESSED ANIMALS

Report habituated, conditioned, or aggressive animals to conservation officers **1-877-952-7277**

Food conditioned: animal regularly returns to human inhabited areas for food



(gardens, garbage, etc.)

Human Habituated: Animal shows no signs of wariness or fear towards humans.

7. COMPOST AND WASTE FRUIT

Collected ground-fall goes to farmers who want the fruit for livestock. Alternatively, ground-fall can be composted with the ACRD organic waste program. Contact gleaning@avfood.ca if you'd like to receive waste fruit for livestock.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

AVFSS Manager: Anna Lewis
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gleaning@avfood.ca

www.avfood.ca/gleaning

Thank you for participating in the Alberni Valley Gleaning Project!

