



Media



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RHODE ISLAND EGG FARMER DONATES 7,200 EGGS TO HELP STRUGGLING FAMILIES

Farmers Nationwide to Contribute Nearly 10 Million Eggs to Food Banks

PROVIDENCE (MARCH 29, 2012) — Despite signs of economic recovery, record numbers of families in Rhode Island and across America are currently relying on food assistance. In fact, a USDA report on food insecurity shows that hunger in Rhode Island now affects one out of seven households. And among the most needed items are sources of high quality protein.

Rhode Island's own Little Rhody Foods is donating 7,200 eggs to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank on April 4 at 10 a.m. to help families struggling with food insecurity.

Little Rhody Foods' efforts are part of a national effort, organized by the United Egg Producers and Feeding America. For the fifth consecutive spring, America's egg farmers are giving the Easter Bunny and families in need, a helping hand by donating nearly 10 million fresh eggs. That brings the number of eggs farmers have contributed since 2008 to 60 million —equaling nearly 5million dozen.

“Little Rhody Foods is proud to be partnering with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank to provide much needed protein to the most needy in our community, especially during the Easter holiday season,” said Eli Berkowitz, Little Rhody Foods. The family farm has served the community since 1955.

For food banks across America, high quality sources of protein, such as eggs, are especially needed and valued. According to the USDA, one large egg delivers six grams of protein, along with 13 essential nutrients, including choline, folate, iron and zinc. After a review of the nutrient composition of standard large eggs last year, USDA concluded that the average amount of cholesterol was 14 percent lower, and vitamin D content was 64 percent higher, than previously measured.

Last fiscal year, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank distributed 9.4 million pounds of food. Each month there are more than 60,000 Rhode Islanders seeking food assistance through the Food Bank's network of emergency food programs.

“Imagine the families who will be enjoying a healthy breakfast of eggs or a hearty egg-salad sandwich, thanks to the generosity of Little Rhody Foods,” said Andrew Schiff, Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Community food Bank. “Eggs are so valuable to food pantry clients because they are easy to prepare, versatile and provide high-quality protein to those who need it most. We're thankful for this partnership with Little Rhody Foods, and we commend them for lending a helping hand to their neighbors.”

“If you’ve ever met an egg farmer, you know just how incredibly generous and giving these men and women are,” said Gene Gregory, president of United Egg Producers. “All year long, but especially at Easter, they proudly do what they can to support the communities in which they live and work.”

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About Little Rhody Foods

Founded in 1954, Little Rhody Farms is a 40 acre farm run by Eli & Ralph Berkowitz. Little Rhody Egg Farm provides a variety of fresh eggs to Rhode Islanders in a variety of sizes. Our premium brand of eggs, Little Rhody Natural Eggs, are from Rhode Island chickens that reside on our farm in Foster, RI. The birds are fed a healthy, all-natural diet containing no animal by-products, preservatives, antibiotics or hormone-growth products.

About the Rhode Island Community Food Bank

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank is a non-profit organization located in Providence, RI. The Food Bank solicits, stores and distributes food products donated by supermarkets, wholesalers, food processors, local farmers and community food drives. The food is then distributed to the Food Bank’s statewide network of 248 member agency programs. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 9.4 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit www.rifoodbank.org.

About United Egg Producers

United Egg Producers (UEP) is the nation’s leading trade association for U.S. egg farmers, representing nearly 90 percent of U.S. egg farmers, whose members produce eggs including modern cage production, cage-free, free range, organic and other specialty eggs. UEP is based in Alpharetta, GA. To learn more about the egg industry visit www.uepcertified.com. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/UEPCertified or follow our updates on Twitter at twitter.com/UEPCertified.

About Feeding America

Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, our network members supply food to more than 37 million Americans each year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member food banks support 61,000 agencies that address hunger in all of its forms. For more information on how you can fight hunger in your community and across the country, visit <http://www.feedingamerica.org>. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/FeedingAmerica or follow our news on Twitter at twitter.com/FeedingAmerica.