



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Free Food Distribution Available for York County Residents**

BIDDEFORD (July 16, 2020) — The City of Biddeford is working with the USDA and the Episcopal Diocese of Maine in partnership with Pineland Farms to distribute 1,320 boxes of free food. The boxes will be available to any York County resident.

The drive-thru distribution will take place at Biddeford Middle School, located at 25 Tiger Drive in Biddeford, on Tuesday, July 21. Food boxes will be handed out on a first come, first served basis beginning at 4:00 PM. Distribution will continue through 8:00 PM or while supplies last.

“We are honored to help our neighbors in need during these difficult times,” said Bishop Thomas James Brown. “Jesus taught us to not love in word but in deed and we are living that mission today and every day. The Episcopal Diocese of Maine expects to participate in other USDA food distribution projects statewide throughout the summer.”

Each box of food will contain Maine-made food products: 5 pounds of potatoes, 6 pounds of microwavable mashed potatoes, 2 ½ pounds of cheddar cheese and a half-gallon of fresh 2% milk.

The boxes are provided free of cost through the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, a component of the USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that was established through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and CARES Act. The program is supporting farmers with up to \$3 billion in purchases of fresh produce, dairy, and meat and distributing these products to low-income Americans in need.

When no Maine distributors were awarded a contract in the first round of funding for the program, the Maine Delegation successfully urged USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue to rectify the program’s shortcomings. With their advocacy, two Maine food distributors were awarded a combined total of nearly \$3.5 million to participate in the program.

“The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Maine’s families, farmers, and food systems have been serious and are certain to persist for months to come,” the Maine Delegation said in a joint statement earlier this month. “We are pleased that a second Maine food distribution company has been provided the opportunity to participate in the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. This funding will support Maine farmers and producers who are struggling with decreased demand and disrupted supply chains as well as help to alleviate hunger in our communities.”

Combined, these awarded contracts will enable the distribution across Maine of more than 10,000 food boxes per week for eight weeks, totaling more than 1.8 million pounds of food that will be provided directly to Maine families.

“Many families in the greater Biddeford area are continuing to face food insecurity and other economic challenges associated with COVID-19. Thanks to this program, many more York County residents in need will have a simple way to access fresh, locally-grown food,” said Biddeford Mayor Alan Casavant.

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# FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR YORK COUNTY RESIDENTS

Tuesday, July 21

4 PM - 8 PM (Or While Supplies Last)

Biddeford Middle School, 25 Tiger Drive

The City of Biddeford is working with the USDA and the Episcopal Diocese of Maine in partnership with Pineland Farms to distribute 1,320 boxes of FREE food for ALL York County residents.

**Each box will include the following Maine products:**

5 lbs potatoes, 6 lbs microwavable mashed potatoes, 2 1/2 lbs cheddar cheese, and 1/2 gallon of fresh 2% milk.

Food boxes will be handed out on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.  
PLEASE follow drive-thru directions and do not leave your vehicle.

