



GLEANING is the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested or on fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest. – Encarta

FOOD WASTE IN THE U.S. Americans throw away an estimated 25% of the food they bring home. That's more than 20 pounds of food per person every month. More than 6 billion pounds of fruits and vegetables go unharvested or unsold each year.

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I the Lord am your God.

– Leviticus 23:22

FOR REFLECTION

- Why does the Torah teach that the farmer can't keep all of the produce? What do the poor and the stranger have in common? What is different?
- Why do you think so much healthy food is left un-harvested or unsold each year?
- Pay close attention to how much good food you throw away in one week. Could your family throw away less, and, with your same food budget, give more to the *Food Bank*?

FOR ACTION

- Find out who in your neighborhood has extra food in their garden or on their trees. Get permission to harvest the extra food and bring it to the *Food Bank*.
- Grow extra food this summer in your garden to donate to the *Food Bank*.
- Get involved with the JFS Farmers Market Gleaning program.



JEWISH **FAMILY** SERVICE

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May the
kavod/dignity of your
fellow be as dear to you
as your own.

Pirke Avot/Ethics of our Ancestors