

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Fight Hunger, Stock the Trailer Donates Record 448,827 Pounds of Food to Ohio Food Banks

*Farm Credit Mid-America and Rural 1<sup>st</sup> program empowers Ohio youth to fight hunger*

**Ohio (November 11, 2025)** – This summer, **youth 4-H leaders** across Ohio united in a powerful effort to fight hunger in their local communities—**collecting a record-breaking 448,827 pounds of food for more than 60 food banks statewide.**

As part of the ***Fight Hunger, Stock the Trailer*** competition—presented by Farm Credit Mid-America and sponsored by Rural 1st—these young leaders turned a friendly rivalry into a statewide movement, making a real difference in their communities while earning funds for their 4-H organizations.

“Supporting rural communities and agriculture is at the heart of our mission, and this initiative is a powerful example,” said Melanie Strait-Bok, Farm Credit Mid-America’s senior vice president of agricultural lending in Ohio. “Feeding America reports that more than 1.8 million Ohioans face food insecurity. It’s inspiring to see our Ohio youth lead innovative efforts like this to support their communities.”

This marks the fourth consecutive year of record donations in the five-year-old program – representing a 57% increase over 2024’s total of 286,000 pounds. **Ross County in south Ohio was the overall state winner, collecting an astounding 122,640 pounds of food Brookside Church and Good Samaritan Food Pantry. Lorain County raised the second highest amount with 52,444 pounds of food.**

Nolan Norman, Junior Fair Board member in Lorain County said, “What really stands out, and what every kid no matter their level of involvement can take away from the program, is seeing the impact that service can have. At the end of the day, the competition is fun, and winning is always a great goal, but the real reward is the ability to serve your community, to give to people who need it, and to see the difference it makes in their lives. People don’t truly grasp the scale of it until they see that semi-truck pulling into the parking lot knowing it’s full of food and supplies that families need.”

In addition to the nearly 450,000 pounds of food collected by the 4-H teams, **Farm Credit Mid-America donated \$63,000 to 4-H county fairs in Ohio** this summer. All of the nearly 60 participating county fair’s 4-H program received a \$500 donation to support activities that build future agriculture leaders. Additional prize dollars were given to the top participating fairs in each of five regions.

<b>South Ohio Region</b>	<b>140,736 total pounds of food</b>
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Place	County Fair	Pounds of Food	Award
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ross County*	122,640	\$5,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Clermont County	6,720	\$1,500
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brown County	6,386	\$500

<b>Northeast Ohio Region</b>			<b>129,848 total pounds of food</b>
Place	County Fair	Pounds of Food	Award
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lorain County*	52,444	\$5,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stark County	28,225	\$1,500
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ashland County	12,758	\$500

<b>East Central Ohio Region</b>			<b>119,752 total pounds of food</b>
Place	County Fair	Pounds of Food	Award
1 <sup>st</sup>	Hartford Independent	35,961	\$5,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Guernsey County	26,520	\$1,500
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Muskingum County	17,958	\$500

<b>West Central Ohio Region</b>			<b>29,834 total pounds of food</b>
Place	County Fair	Pounds of Food	Award
1 <sup>st</sup>	Champaign County*	18,140	\$5,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Warren County	4,840	\$1,500
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Greene County	4,220	\$500

<b>Northwest Ohio Region</b>			<b>28,656 total pounds of food</b>
Place	County Fair	Pounds of Food	Award
1 <sup>st</sup>	Fulton County	13,860	\$5,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mercer County	8,820	\$1,500
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Auglaize County	4,020	\$500

\* Ross, Lorain and Champaign counties were all top finishers in 2024 as well.

*Fight Hunger, Stock the Trailer* is just one way Farm Credit Mid-America and its consumer lending brand, Rural 1<sup>st</sup>, invest in rural communities and agriculture. In 2024, the association contributed nearly \$4.5 million to impactful programs—including \$1.7 million for youth, college students and young and beginning farmers. Of that, \$450,000 supported Ohio-specific programs, including \$82,000 for Ohio 4-H—demonstrating a strong commitment to the future of agriculture in our state.

To learn more about Farm Credit Mid-America and its commitment to supporting local communities, visit [www.fcma.com](http://www.fcma.com).

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### **About Farm Credit Mid-America**

A proud member of the Farm Credit System, Farm Credit Mid-America is securing the future of rural communities and agriculture® as a leading provider of reliable, consistent credit and financial services to farmers, producers, agribusinesses and rural residents in Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee. The customer-owned cooperative serves more than 145,000 customers and manages a portfolio of \$44.1 billion in total earning assets owned and managed. Farm Credit Mid-



America's products and services include loans for real estate, operating, equipment, rural living, crop insurance and vehicle, equipment and building leases. For more information, visit [www.fcma.com](http://www.fcma.com).

**About Rural 1<sup>st</sup>**

Rural 1<sup>st</sup> is the consumer lending division of Farm Credit Mid-America, a financial services cooperative whose purpose is to secure the future of rural communities and agriculture. Rural 1<sup>st</sup> is the leader in rural lending and helps those who are seeking open spaces get Closer to What Matters®. Rural 1<sup>st</sup> offers tailored product options for lot, land, construction, and home loans for those who want to live rurally. For more information, call 1-844-GO-RURAL or visit [www.Rural1st.com](http://www.Rural1st.com). NMLS 407249. Equal Housing Lender.

Download the Farm Credit Mid-America and Rural 1<sup>st</sup> logos [here](#)

