

Bruin Community Pantry Q&A's generated from Basic Needs Survey



Thank you for everyone who completed the Basic Needs Survey last semester.

Many of you asked great questions, or made comments that indicated you would like more information. Hopefully the answers to these questions will give you more information and understanding as to how food banks are managed.

Questions and comments are in bold. Answers are listed below.

If you have additional questions, or concerns, please feel free to make an appointment with me.

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Offer more meat

- Meat is one of the food items that is hard to acquire. From time to time we get “[Feeding America](#)” or “[FEMA](#)” of TEFAP – The Emergency Food Assistance Program. If meat is on my weekly order form that I receive from YCAP, I order as much as is available, or I get a certain ‘allotment’ which is determined by the number of clients we have. (This is the most important reason for checking into the food bank!) From time to time, we are able to get a lot of ‘Fresh Alliance’ meat (see ‘fresh alliance information below).

Provide cookbooks and recipes

- Currently we have some easy recipes printed and they are in black holders on the wall. Check them out! Whenever I receive a donation of a cookbook, I make them available. Ask a volunteer for assistance! **However, we also have recipe links on the Bruin Community Pantry website:** <https://www.georgefox.edu/offices/student-life/bruin-community-pantry/resources.html>
- There are a million recipes online:
<https://foodhero.org/>
<https://www.budgetbytes.com/top-10-recipes-for-college-students/>
- Sign up for a cooking class when we advertise in the Daily Bruin
- Need more ideas? Contact Jere Witherspoon.

Who is eligible to use the food bank?

- The Bruin Community Pantry is a certified food bank through Oregon Food Bank and Yamhill Community Action Partnership. This means that everyone is eligible to use the food bank. All students, all GFU employees, all community members are welcome. Everyone is welcome!

Expiration Dates – Use By – Best By – WHAT DO THESE DATES MEAN?

- The method by which food manufacturers determine when a product is no longer safe to it is antiquated, outdated, and can be confusing for most consumers. Detailed information can be found on this website: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/food-safety-basics/food-product-dating>

- A lot of the food we have access to is called **“Fresh Alliance”** or **‘salvage food.’** These descriptions are for food where the best by date has come and gone. In the grocery stores these food items (mostly meat products but not limited to these items) are frozen the day before the sell by date, and we get some amazing pieces of meat from this program. As with every food product, consumers are encouraged to examine the product before cooking.
- Products carrying a “BEST if Used By” label are safe to use and consume even after the date on the package is passed, but may taste a little stale or not have the full vitamin content listed on the package.
- Fresh Alliance food is coveted by most students. Don’t get caught in the web of thinking that food where the ‘best by’ date is passed cannot be eaten. This is simply not true. [Educate yourself about code dating.](#)

You have very specific, but limited items.

The food bank doesn’t have much to offer.

More consistent supplies of produce so people would have access to healthy foods.

Wish that the BCP had more healthy options such as eggs, yogurt, utensils, etc.

- Food banks are not grocery stores. Food banks are a resource. The food that is available to food banks is also limited. Need shopping tips? Email me!
- Each week I get an order sheet where I get to order the food that I would like to stock at the food bank. When we first opened the food bank, the order sheet was 4 to 5 pages long. **Now it is barely two full pages.**
- The food bank is run on food and financial donations from employees, GFU families, businesses, and grants. There is not enough money to purchase items for all our clients in the same fashion as a grocery store. The only way we can afford the food we currently get is because we purchase them at very reduced costs. Our food is often subsidized by the federal government.

FOR EXAMPLE: 12 boxes of macaroni and cheese cost me .81 cents each rather than \$1.50 in discount grocery stores.

- There are about 40 food banks in Yamhill County. The food available to the Bruin Community Pantry is shared with these other food banks.
- Bottom line, a food bank is not a grocery store. We must share the discounted priced food with 40 other food banks.
- Produce is especially hard to purchase. Again, it depends on what is donated to the Oregon Food Bank & YCAP.
- Produce that doesn’t look perfect is often left behind. Some folks expect grocery store produce. While there are times that we do get fabulous produce, most of the time that isn’t the case. Have you ever heard of **“[Imperfect Foods?](#)”**

- Until mid-November, each week, I purchased 95 dozen eggs from Grocery Outlet. I made a commitment to purchasing eggs because they are a healthy option for many people, they are easy to cook, and they are used in a lot of other food preparations. Unfortunately, in January the price is still \$6.99 a dozen. I cannot afford to purchase them until the price drops to below \$4 a dozen.

I don't know where it is – we have not been informed - Not familiar with the hours

Please send out info to student populace. I had no idea that this was an option.

- If you have never heard of the Bruin Community Pantry, make sure you read the [Daily Bruin](#).
- <https://blogs.georgefox.edu/enounce/?s=Bruin+community+pantry>
- The hours are posted on the [website](#) and announced through the Daily Bruin. Signs are posted on the door of the food bank. Call Student Life if you have any questions. 503-554-2310

Hours are limited

- The Bruin Community Pantry depends on volunteers to be open.
- Last semester we were open an average of 7 hours a day, 35 hours a week.
- We are open far more than any other food bank in the local area.
- If you think our hours are limited, please consider volunteering. 😊

Providing cooking utensils or renting them

- This is a great idea! Anyone available to manage this kind of program?
- We do receive donations from time to time and they are made available to food bank clients.

More social media

- Would you like to volunteer to help in this area?
- I do agree, more social media is needed. I just don't have the time.

Clarification if the Bruin Pantry is just for students that can't afford food or for everyone. Lots of my friends go there, but if I can afford groceries, should I go elsewhere? Do you run out of things, or do you throw things away?

- This is such a great question.
- While everyone is welcome, if you don't experience food insecurity, and you have enough resources on your own to purchase food, then please limit your use of the food bank.
- While we sometimes must throw away produce that has gone bad, we provide this food to a local farmer, a former GFU professor, for his cows, chickens and pigs.

If you have more questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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