

# Volunteers Glean Fields To Help Fight Hunger

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**MECHANICSBURG** (Cumberland Co.) — Approximately 20 million people in the United States may be hungry at least some period during each month. Ending hunger is Pat Colyott's motivation for coordinating a new team of gleaners in South Central Pennsylvania. Gleaning is the gathering of leftover crops from the fields for donation to the poor and hungry. Historically, gleaning provided a source of food for the poor, the unfortunate, and travelers. Pat lives in Shippensburg and coordinates these projects in affiliation with the Society of St. Andrew and the South Central PA Food Bank.

Pat became involved with gleaning when her family lived in the D.C. area. When she and her husband, Roger Watson, moved north, she began a gleaning crew in this area. Pumpkins, blueberries, squash, and apples are among the crops they picked last year. This year they've harvested blueberries, corn, and green beans.

Pat has been grateful with Benjamin Bear, who handles the farming operation for Ashcombes. This year he planted some extra rows of corn for them to glean. He had the extra seed and it didn't cost him that much to help, he said. Much of the food goes to the South Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Steelton. In addition, when large supplies of produce are too large for them to handle, they are directly distributed to housing projects. People on low-incomes, including the elderly, are very pleased when the food arrives. It is a real treat for them to have fresh produce instead of the normal canned foods.

The Methodist Church holds Harvest of Hope Weekends to teach teens about hunger and gleaning. Youth from other areas come to Big Island, Virginia, to participate. In October, teens will pick apples for the hungry.

Gleaning keeps Pat busy several days a month. In addition, she and Roger have a small 50-acre hobby farm in Shippensburg. They raise dairy goats, chickens, and ducks. Being with the animals is Pat's real love. To make a living, they're in the insurance business, specifically WNC Insurance Services.

Pat offers suggestions for people.  
(Turn to Page B14)

## Clean Deck Furniture

You don't have to take a mildew-stained deck or chaise lounge lying down. Bring back those warm, soft colors with a good cleaning.

Although cedar, redwood and cypress decks resist decay, they do need a yearly cleaning. The easiest way to remove that coating of grime and mildew is with a strong cleaning solution and a stiff-bristled brush.

For best results, use a solution of one cup trisodium phosphate (TSP), one cup powdered detergent and two cups household bleach dissolved in two gallons of warm water. If your deck is prone to mildew, you may want to spray the wood afterwards with a commercial mildewcide.



Pat Colyott, gleaner and consultant for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, picks a crop of corn in a field provided by Ashcombes in Mechanicsburg. The food is distributed to the South Central PA Food Bank and to housing projects. Pat is looking for additional gleaners and for farmers to open their fields to gleaning.



Pastor Richard Gelb of Tree of Life Lutheran in Linglestown, brought four others gleaning including Nathan to help with the corn.

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