



October 16, 2022 | 1:00 to 6:00 pm

What is a Crop Drop? What will we do at the event?

At a Crop Drop, a large load of rescued produce is literally “dropped” at a location so that it can be divided into manageable quantities and distributed to agencies who serve people who struggle with food insecurity. IPC is partnering with Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) Alabama, which is the agency that gleans the produce from the farmers and coordinates the delivery for our event.

For the IPC Crop Drop, 33,000 pounds of sweet potatoes will be dropped in the back of our main parking lot. At the event, volunteers will be divided into groups to sack these potatoes into smaller quantities (5-10 pound bags). As the sacking is completed, partner agencies will arrive to pick up the produce. Volunteers will assist with distributing and loading the produce into the agency vehicles.

Why has IPC chosen this as a service opportunity?

The benefits of a Crop Drop are multi-faceted. The event *reduces food waste* by rescuing food that would have been unsellable and potentially headed for the landfill. The Crop Drop *addresses food insecurity* by distributing this food to agencies and individuals in need. And, the event *provides community and fellowship* for our congregation as we join together in service.

I participated last year, but the sacking was almost finished by the time I arrived. Will this year be different?

Yes! Because farming and transportation are sometimes unpredictable, we encountered a problem last year in procuring the planned amount of produce. Fortunately, our team was able to pivot and purchase produce so that we could continue with the event, but not at the level that we anticipated. **THIS YEAR**, SoSA is working with a farmer who plans to provide **33,000 pounds** of sweet potatoes for us to sack and distribute. Depending on the exact amount delivered, this will be **8-10 times** as much produce as we had last year! This will be a much bigger event and we need full participation.

(Caveat: As previously mentioned, farming is unpredictable! While this is our plan for this year, we also plan to be flexible and pivot again if necessary.)

Who can participate? What if I have young children?

EVERYONE! This is a congregation-wide event, and we need at least 120 volunteers for the event to be successful. We invite all members of the congregation, ages 5 and up, to participate in the Crop Drop. Childcare will be available for children under age 5. Please sign-up for childcare when you register for the event. This is a wonderful event for families to take part in together.

I can't come for the entire timeframe. Can I still participate?

Yes! This year we have divided the event into two shifts: **1:00 to 3:30 PM** and **3:00 to 6:00 PM**, though we hope to have all produce distributed to agencies by 5:00pm. More volunteers are needed in the first shift because that is when the majority of the sacking will be completed. You are welcome to [sign-up](#) and participate in both shifts if you are able!

Where will this event be held? Where should I park?

The Crop Drop will be held in the back of the main IPC parking lot. Because agencies will be driving through to pick up their produce, we ask that participants do not park in the parking lot during the Crop Drop, but instead utilize street parking in the area.

What should I bring to the Crop Drop? What should I wear?

The Crop Drop is an outdoor, working event, so please wear comfortable, casual clothes and shoes that are appropriate for the weather. You can bring a pair of work gloves if you would like. If you have limited mobility or a difficult time standing for long periods, feel free to bring your own chair.

We are also in need of wheelbarrows and wagons to be used during the event. If you have either of these items that you can bring, please sign-up [here](#). Be sure to label your equipment and take it home with you at the end of the event.

Will this event occur even if it's raining?

Yes! The event will only be canceled due to lightning or strong storms. Otherwise, it will take place rain (drizzle/light rain) or shine! (But pray for sunshine!!)

Sign-up to join us

[Register](#) for our first or second shift by Oct. 9:

- First Shift: 1-3:30 pm (more volunteers requested this shift)
- Second Shift: 3-6 pm