



## COVID-19 Impacts

PHOTO: MILA BERHANE

# Extension helps communities with food security

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, land-grant university Extension programs helped communities stay food secure by meeting information needs and partnering to support food distribution events. Donations of fresh vegetables grown at university farms contributed to local food supplies.*

### Successful examples include:

- The **Alaska** Tilth Program provided produce from local farms to those in need while the Cooperative Extension Service supplied nutrition information. Alaska's Experiment Farm vegetable variety trials program contributed more than 10,000 pounds of vegetables to the Tilth Program.
- In **Delaware**, Extension helped increase poultry producer enrollment in the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. The USDA Farm Service Agency issued over \$7.5 million in program payments to eligible producers.
- In **Florida**, the 2021 Peanut Butter Challenge helped combat local food insecurity with a Florida-grown product, providing 22 tons of the nutrient-dense spread to community organizations statewide that feed the hungry.
- The pandemic had a positive effect on food supplies when 7.6 million pounds of **Louisiana** shrimp were taken out of inventory and distributed nationwide. Food banks expanded to new markets offering their participants Louisiana shrimp, never before considered eligible for the USDA/AMS program.

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