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## **Fresh, Local Milk Donation to MANNA FoodBank to support WNC Families Facing Crisis**

**Local Dairy Farmer, Mike Corn, and Milkco, Inc. team up to make  
fresh, local milk possible for struggling families**

Asheville, NC (June 3, 2020) – On Thursday, MANNA food bank will pick up the first of three major donations – local, fresh milk from cows right here in Western North Carolina.

Mike Corn, a dairy farmer located in Mills River, is donating an entire day's worth of milk production – over 19,000 pounds of raw milk – to help support the huge increase in the number of families needing basic food support in the midst of the pandemic.

Since the pandemic began in mid-March, MANNA and their network of nonprofit food partners have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people seeking emergency food support – **over a 65% increase** – with the need continuing to grow across WNC as the economic and health crisis lingers.

“Many WNC families are facing a food crisis for the first time ever,” says Hannah Randall, Chief Executive Officer for MANNA. “We’re committed, as we have always been, to being there for everyone who needs us, and Milkco, our incredible local farmers like Mr. Corn, and Ingles Markets continue to help us meet that need.”

Ingles, and Milkco, a subsidiary of Ingles are incredible longtime partners of MANNA in the work to address hunger. Milkco will process and package the milk donation, and prepare it in three large shipments for MANNA, who will work with partner nonprofits to get the fresh milk to families quickly.

“Fresh milk, especially local milk from WNC farmers, is such an incredible gift,” says Mary Nesbitt, Chief Development Officer for MANNA. “This fresh milk will support so many families who are facing an unthinkable set of circumstances. It is so much more than an important nutritional food – it is hope for our WNC neighbors.”

“During unprecedented times like these, continued help from great partners like Ingles and Milkco and all of our friends across the region are essential to our ability to continue to serve the growing number of people who need our support.” Nesbitt added.

A note of interest: [Mike Corn's Jersey cows are the ancestors of the historic Biltmore Estate herd from the Vanderbilt's dairy.](#)

In support of people across WNC impacted by the pandemic, please share the

**MANNA Food Helpline:**

**1-800-820-1109**

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#### **About MANNA FoodBank**

MANNA FoodBank is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving Western North Carolina since 1983. As an accredited member of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization, the mission of MANNA FoodBank is to involve, educate, and unite people in the work of ending hunger in Western North Carolina. MANNA serves over 200 community-based non-profit food assistance partner agencies in 16 Western North Carolina counties and distributed 19.8 million pounds of food in 2018/2019. MANNA FoodBank is a nonpartisan organization committed to sharing facts and information about issues related to hunger in Western North Carolina and how they affect those we serve. For more information, visit [MANNAFoodbank.org](http://MANNAFoodbank.org), or call 828-299-FOOD.

#### **About Feeding America**

Feeding America is the nationwide network of 200 food banks that leads the fight against hunger in the United States. Together, we provide food to more than 46 million people through 60,000 food pantries and meal programs in communities across America. Feeding America also supports programs that improve food security among the people we serve; educates the public about the problem of hunger; and advocates for legislation that protects people from going hungry. Individuals, charities, businesses and government all have a role in ending hunger. Donate. Volunteer. Advocate. Educate. Together we can solve hunger. Visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org), find us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).