



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN NEBRASKA

Hope in the Good Life

November 2024



St. Isidore/Mike & Janet McDonald

Donating Grain to CSS: A Gift of Harvest & Hope

Born into a life of farming and manual labor, St. Isidore knew well the demands of a farmer's life. Although he didn't own land himself, he worked tirelessly every day as a farmhand on a wealthy landowner's estate. Isidore was deeply dedicated both to his work and his faith. Rising early each day, he began with prayer at church before spending long hours plowing the fields.

All day, he communed with God and incorporated his faith into his daily tasks. Isidore lived an ordinary life marked by his search for balance between his devotion to God, his family, and his work. Though his time was spread thin, he found a way to fulfill his responsibilities to all three.

For farmers and agriculture producers in Nebraska, donating grain to CSS is a powerful way to make a difference and live a faith-filled life like St. Isidore. This unique form of charitable giving enables farmers to support vital community services, gain financial benefits, and provide Hope in the Good Life to those in need.

Donating grain has become an annual tradition for many farmers—a way to celebrate and share the blessings of a fruitful harvest. By donating to CSS, farmers have the opportunity to contribute to the well-being of their community and support people from all walks of life.

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WHY DONATE GRAIN TO CSS?

Tax Efficiency

Grain donations can offer significant tax benefits for farmers. By donating grain instead of cash proceeds from a sale, farmers may reduce their taxable income. This allows farmers to maximize their contributions to CSS while reducing tax liabilities associated with their harvest.

A Direct Path to Impact

CSS has a range of programs and services that depend on community donations. From food programs and financial assistance for those in need, to shelter for victims of domestic violence, CSS provides resources and compassion to those facing hardship. A donation of grain ensures CSS has the funds to continue these essential services.

Community-Centered Philanthropy

Farmers donating to CSS not only support their local community but also uphold values of faith and service. Grain donations allow farmers to share the fruits of their labor directly with CSS, knowing the proceeds will go toward programs that help neighbors in need.



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#HopeintheGoodLife

Donating Grain to CSS: A Gift of Harvest & Hope (cont.)

Among these farmers are Mike and Janet McDonald of Palmyra. Reflecting upon their gift, they shared, "We were blessed that our first time growing rye resulted in a bountiful harvest this summer. Tithing comes in many forms but the donation of grain from our Indigo Ridge Farms was the perfect opportunity to help others in the St. Gianna Program. We love the support of women and kids. It also reminds us how our moms helped neighbors better their lives." The McDonalds draw inspiration from Ecclesiastes 11:4: "If you wait for perfect weather, you will never plant your seeds. If you are afraid that every cloud will bring rain, you will never harvest your crops."

How to Donate Grain to Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska

1. **Choose the Donation Amount:** Farmers decide on the quantity of grain to donate to CSS. This could be a portion of their harvest, surplus grain, or a dedicated contribution for the season.
2. **Notify the Grain Elevator:** Work with your local grain elevator to initiate the donation. Notify them in advance that you'd like to transfer ownership of specific grain to Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska. The grain should be directed to CSS's account at the elevator.
3. **Ensure Proper Documentation:** Request that the grain elevator provides documentation verifying the quantity and type of grain donated. Both CSS and the farmer should keep copies of all documentation.
4. **Coordinate with CSS:** Notify CSS of your donation and provide any necessary documentation or confirmation. CSS will help facilitate the process and can issue a receipt, acknowledging the farmer's generosity.
5. **Consult with a Tax Professional:** It's wise to consult with a tax advisor before making a grain donation. This ensures compliance with IRS regulations and helps farmers maximize their tax benefits.

Donating grain is a simple yet powerful way to live out the values of compassion, generosity, and faith, all while strengthening the Southern Nebraska community and bringing more Hope in the Good Life. **St. Isidore, patron saint of farmers, pray for us!**

CSS Holiday Giving

This Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year, join Catholic Social Services in providing:

- Gifts for families in need
- Financial assistance through cash donations and gift cards
- Food market & personal care items



Scan the QR code or go online to participate!



csshope.org/holidaygiving