



## Wholesale Ground Beef Application

Roots of Health 2026

Thank you for your interest in supplying ground beef for the Roots of Health program. Roots of Health (ROH) reduces food insecurity, improves healthy eating habits, and supports local agriculture by providing fresh, local vegetables (and for the first time-- meat!) to Mercy Hospital employees. Hospital employees who make near or below living wages receive priority to participate in the program. Over the past six years, employees at Mercy Hospital have been able to purchase a weekly produce share on a sliding scale, sourced from local farmers. Last year, we provided vegetable shares to 170 employees. Due to participant interest, we are piloting a meat add-on for 90 participants in the 2026 season! ROH is a partnership between Mercy Hospital, CommonSpirit, and the Good Food Collective.

For the 2026 season, we are seeking a reliable, local producer in Southwest Colorado or the Four Corners region to supply 90 lbs of wholesale, USDA-processed ground beef every other week from late June through September. This forward purchasing agreement establishes a consistent delivery schedule and pricing, with payment made promptly upon delivery.

## What We're Looking For

### Quantities

- 90 lbs per delivery × 7 deliveries
- 630 lbs total for the season

### Pricing

- Wholesale, bulk pricing per pound
- Include all production, processing, packaging, and delivery costs into price per pound

### Product Requirements

- Fresh, high-quality ground beef
- USDA-processed and inspected
- Packaged in individual ~1lb frozen packages
- Labels must include:
  - Weight
  - Ingredients
  - USDA stamp
  - Safe-handling instructions

### **Season Timeline**

- Last week of June → Last week of September
- Deliveries made every other week (7 total)

### **Delivery Expectations**

- Producer delivers product (day/time coordinated during contracting)
- Delivery will be near the south end of Durango, close to Mercy Hospital
- Product must be delivered frozen at 0°F (-18°C) or below
- Delivery vehicle or cooler must maintain frozen temperatures
- Producer must keep a thermometer inside storage and transport cooler at all times
- Producer must keep temperature logs showing product was kept frozen

### **Producer Food Safety & Liability Documentation**

- Producer has basic SOPs for animal and food safety (this does NOT need to be a formal certification, but it must be written and consistently followed)
- Producer carries \$1M liability insurance

## **How the Purchase Agreement Works**

This is a forward purchase agreement, so we commit to buying a set quantity at an agreed price, and you commit to supplying that product on schedule.

### **Contract Fulfillment**

We recognize that agricultural production carries risks. However, the Producer agrees to:

- Make every reasonable effort to meet the order and delivery schedule
- Provide Roots of Health the same consideration you offer any other wholesale customer

## **Payment & Agreement**

### **Agreement**

After selection, GFC will draft an agreement with you outlining:

- Payment schedule
- Quantities
- Delivery schedule
- Communication expectations
- All other contract fulfillment expectations

### **Payment**

- Payment will be made upon receipt of product
- We commit to paying promptly, within 7 business days of receipt

## **Communication With CSA Participants**

We want participants to know their farmers and ranchers! The GFC sends CSA participants a weekly e-newsletter with information about their farmers, the food they are getting, recipes, and supplementary resources. Each delivery week, producers will be asked to send:

- A list of the items being delivered
- A short farm/ranch update (a few sentences + at least one photo)
- Optional: recipes, farm opportunities, or relevant events you'd like to promote

## **Participation Requirements**

Producers must also participate in:

- One pre-season orientation call
- Monthly check-in calls during July, August, and September

- A short post-season survey

## Selection Criteria

Preference is given to producers who can:

- Meet all requirements listed above
- Demonstrate a reliable track record of entering into and fulfilling forward purchasing agreements with wholesale buyers
- When all other criteria are met, additional priority will be given to:
  - Producers within 100 miles of Mercy Hospital
  - Small-scale, women, LGBTQ+, and BIPOC-owned operations

## Important Dates

- **February 15, 2026 — Applications due**
- **March 9, 2026 — GFC notifies producers of acceptance**
- **March 22, 2026 — Producers accept offer + submit onboarding documents**
  - W9
  - Liability policy
  - Farm/Ranch SOP's
  - Signed forward purchasing agreement

## How to Apply

[Fill out this form to submit your application](#)

### Questions?

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