



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

Communication Department

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**FIRST LADY KAREN W. KASICH AND OHIO DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR JAMES ZEHRINGER VISIT PRODUCE TO
PEOPLE DISTRIBUTION**

CLEVELAND – First Lady Karen W. Kasich and Ohio Department of Agriculture Director James Zehringer yesterday visited one of the Cleveland Foodbank’s Produce to People distributions, made possible through the Ohio Agricultural Clearance Program and the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF), including partnerships with over 100 Ohio farms and food producers. About 350 of these produce distributions will be held this year at Cleveland Foodbank member agencies.

“Nutrition is central to the health and development of our children and their families,” Mrs. Kasich said. “These programs not only work to address hunger in Ohio, but also help provide wholesome, Ohio-grown fresh fruits and vegetables to families in need.”

Mrs. Kasich and Director Zehringer met with staff, volunteers and program participants to discuss the importance of the Produce to People program as well as assist in distributing fresh Ohio produce. In 2011, the state of Ohio will provide \$12.5 million towards the purchase and delivery of food that is distributed through a partnership with OASHF and its statewide network of 12 food banks—much of the product being fresh produce from Ohio.

“The Produce to People program is a great example of a successful public-private partnership at work in the community,” Director Zehringer said. “It supports Ohio farmers and food processors, while helping many Ohioans in their times of need.”

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