

From porch to pig pen: How your old pumpkins can feed happy hogs



Help local farms feed their livestock with your leftover holiday decor. | Photo via Flickr
Not sure what to do with your pumpkin after Halloween this year? We've got the perfect recommendation for you. And the answer is a lot cuter than you might think — check out Pumpkins For Pigs.

What's Pumpkins For Pigs?

This organization works to reduce food waste by bringing items like pumpkins to farms, sanctuaries, and rescues for feed and compost.

You can donate more than just pumpkins. See the full list here.

History of Pumpkins For Pigs

Founded by Jennifer Seifert in Loudoun County, this organization has expanded to operate 600+ drop-off sites across 44 US states and Canada. Seifert first launched the idea by partnering with 10 farms and animal sanctuaries, inviting people to drop off their leftover pumpkins for use as animal feed or compost.

Benefits of donating

According to the organization's website, there are many benefits besides providing food for livestock. Here are just a few:

- Reduces costs for local farms, sanctuaries, and animal rescues by providing free compost material.
- Decreases landfill waste, helping extend the lifespan of existing landfills and lessen environmental impact.
- Strengthens community connections by engaging residents in sustainable, farmsupporting initiatives.



Let them eat... pumpkins. | Photo via Wikimedia Commons

How you can donate

Where can you donate? Check out this <u>interactive map</u> to find the best donation spot for you.

Here are a few spots in Loudoun County:

56 Hooves | 19960 Foggy Bottom Rd., Bluemont

Accepted donations: Pumpkins (uncarved) and locally grown Christmas trees for goats Drop-off: Drive up to the barn buildings, and there will be a pallet or picnic table set up for donations

Anything's Pawsbull, LLC | 13880 Blazer Ln., Lovettsville

Accepted donations: Pumpkins (uncarved), gourds, fruits, vegetables, bread, straw, evergreen trees (including Christmas trees)

Drop-off: Call or text (703) 431-1473 to coordinate drop-off

Beagle Run Farm | 16675 Hillsboro Rd., Purcellville

Accepted donations: Pumpkins, gourds, acorns, Christmas trees Drop-off: Look for the sign and place donations in the box

Bleu Frog Vineyard & Farm | 16413 James Monroe Hwy, Leesburg

Accepted donations: Pumpkins, gourds

Drop-off: Place donations anywhere between the highway and creek, on the side of the driveway — many place them near the pile of gray rocks

Make sure to check out each farm's drop-off instructions, as they differ.

Register your own farm

Looking to accept donations at your farm, sanctuary, or rescue? Complete this <u>registration form</u> to get approved by the organization. Once approved, you'll need to order lawn signs, and then you're set to accept donations.