



Food Waste by Sector: Farm

Food waste happens across the entire food system—this is a snapshot of food waste in the farm, or producers, sector. All estimates come from ReFED and are based on 2024 data (*the most recent year available*). For more facts and figures, visit the [ReFED Insights Engine](#).

Note: ReFED's on-farm estimates only cover loss and waste related to produce.

1

70 million tons of surplus food* were generated across the entire food system in 2024.

2

In the farm sector, 16.9 million tons of surplus food were generated, accounting for 24.2% of the total.

- Of that amount, 14.8 million tons became food waste.
- 94.2% of food waste in the farm sector—14 million tons—was not harvested.

3

Surplus food from the farm sector accounts for 3.56 million metric tons of CO₂e released into the atmosphere per year.

- That's equivalent to CO₂e emissions from 830,000 cars driven for one year.
- Methane emissions—which are more potent than other greenhouse gas emissions—generated from the farm sector equal 15,200 MT.

4

Surplus food from farms was valued at \$13.4 billion dollars in 2024.

- That's equivalent to nearly one-fourth of national crop farm input expenditures.
- Food not harvested has a valuation of \$11.6 billion.

5

The farm sector wasted 621 billion gallons of water in 2024.

- That's equivalent to the amount of water in over 940,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

6

The equivalent of 27.8 billion meals went unsold or uneaten as a result of surplus food in the farm sector in 2024.

To see solutions for producers, visit ReFED's [Solutions Database](#). To learn more about reducing food loss on farms, visit the [Producers Recommendations](#) page on the ReFED website.

**Surplus food is all food that goes unsold or unused by a business or that goes uneaten at home or restaurants—including food and inedible parts that are donated, fed to livestock animals, repurposed to produce other products, or go to any of the destinations represented in food waste.*