



# College of Forestry Rootstock 2021-2022 Report

## Mission

Rootstock, the new College of Forestry food pantry, will actively work to provide a variety of resources and educational experiences for faculty, staff and students to ensure that more people in our community have the food and resources they need.

## About

According to recent research conducted by Mark Edwards, professor of Sociology and Director of Oregon State University Policy Analysis Laboratory at the School of Public Policy, 24% of Oregon State students on the Corvallis campus are estimated to be food insecure. Though there is not specific food insecurity data related to College of Forestry students, 34% of College of Forestry students have high financial need compared to 28% of OSU's population. College of Forestry students also have the 4th highest financial need of OSU Colleges.

To address food insecurity issues and help meet immediate student needs, Rootstock, a food pantry for undergraduate and graduate students of the College of Forestry, opened in January 2022. Located on the first floor of the Peavy Forest Science Center, Rootstock is a community space providing food and resources to those in need. Since opening, it has served over 200 students.

When students visit Rootstock, they walk away with food for meals, snacks, condiments, spices, milk, meat as well as menstrual/hygiene products and cleaning supplies. Information is also available about programs available to them through the OSU Basic Needs Center including SNAP benefits and textbook loaning programs.

In addition, Rootstock works with faculty and staff to reduce catering waste after events by emailing and tweeting when leftover food is available from events and meetings.

## 2022 Impact



**232** students visited the pantry since its opening in January.

**\$5,000** funded both food and start up supplies for the first six months.



**2,875** items were handed out, including fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy items, meat, bread, along with canned and boxed goods, household cleaning supplies and basic hygiene items.



In June, to ensure no food would go to waste over the summer, volunteers packaged 45 to-go snack packs for students to take as they left for the academic year.

The communications team hosted an online event with Mark Edwards, who spoke about his findings on food insecurity at OSU.



**20+** emails and Tweets went out to CoF students about catering leftovers available.



Donations came from the Beavers Care Fund, bottle and can recycling around the college, a student club led canned food drive, and personal donations from faculty, staff, the Fed Ex driver, OSU Honey Bee Lab and local dentist Dr. John Smart, Northwest Dental of Corvallis.

A student survey (next page) was conducted and showed that students do not have enough information about additional services on campus or about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The committee remedied this with signs in the pantry and the community nook space with information about eligibility and how to find additional resources.



## Committee members

- Madison Dudley
- Jenifer Elston
- Christina Fierro
- Jessica Fitzmorris (chair)
- Angela Haney
- Brooke Harrington
- Cathy Knock
- Juliet Sutton
- Terralyn Vandetta
- Ann Van Zee
- Adrienne Wonhof

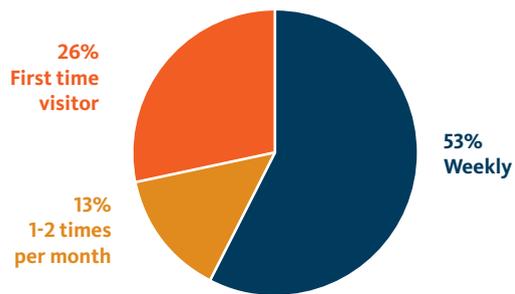


## Goals for 2022 - 2023

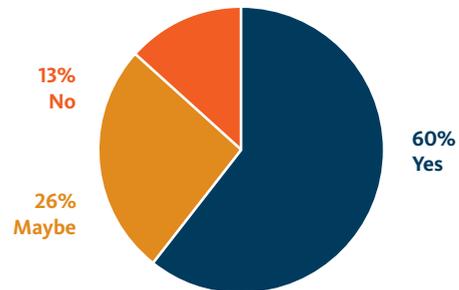
- Fall crowdfunding campaign with the OSU Foundation to raise money for Rootstock
- Establish 1-2 annual events to raise money
- Work on long term, permanent funding
- Continue to educate students, staff and faculty on college and campus-wide resources

## Student survey results

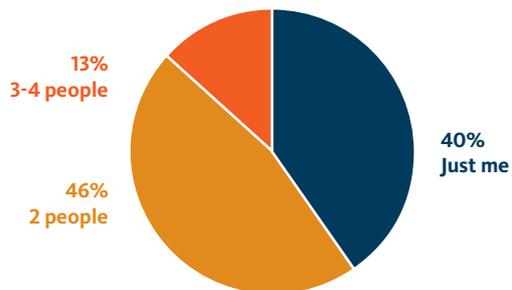
How often do you visit the pantry?



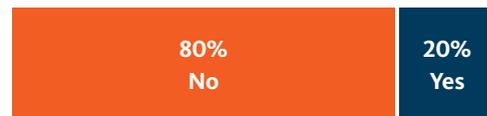
Do you or other household members worry about the ability to purchase healthy and nutritious food because of income limitations?



How many people are in your household?



Do you receive SNAP or other food assistance?



Do you know about other resources offered by OSU?



## Student survey results cont.

Please tell us how the food pantry is benefiting your school experience.

"I am able to vary my diet more and feel less stressed about obtaining food frequently."

"I tend to just not eat when I can't afford food. Because of the food pantry I am able to feed myself and focus significantly better on my school work."

I am married and my stipend is not enough. The pantry helps to reduce grocery expense and helps me reduce stress.

"It's very relieving to know I can go there during a week that I don't think I can afford a trip to the store. And it's a really comfortable space to reach out for help. Makes me feel less stressed and really supported."

"As a grad student I live paycheck to paycheck so every little bit of savings helps reduce money related anxiety."

"I am able to quickly get essential food I need where most of my classes are. And it helps when my SNAP benefits have run out."

"I'm saving money and eating healthy, allowing me to maintain a well performance in school."

"The food pantry supplements my weekly groceries and helps alleviate financial stress. I often come away with things that I wouldn't buy, because of expense or just not thinking of it!"

"It's helping me financially."

"It provides me the ability to grab food that I need while still on campus instead of having to take a large amount of time to go to the grocery store. This service is very helpful."

"Knowing that there are resources for me help to ease worry and stay focused on school."

"It allows me to get the simple things I may need throughout the day. The option of grabbing one or two items helps me because I don't have much room to store food. The healthy snacks and fresh fruits are nice while studying so I don't have to rely on prepackaged food of sorts."

"Relieves stress around food security."