



College of Forestry

2025-2026 Rootstock Report

MISSION

Rootstock, the College of Forestry's food pantry, actively works to provide a variety of resources and educational experiences for employees, students, and students to ensure that more people in our community have the food and resources they need.

ABOUT

To help College of Forestry students focus on their education instead of worrying about where their next meal will come from, the college opened the Rootstock food pantry in January 2022. Located on the first floor of the Peavy Forest Science Center, Rootstock is donor-funded and volunteer-run. Students can access free groceries, hygiene products and cleaning supplies while also learning about resources available through the OSU Basic Needs Center, including SNAP benefits and textbook lending.



Rootstock 2025-2026 Impacts

Milestone Achieved:

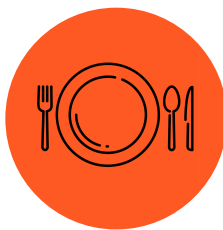
Thanks to the generosity of the College of Forestry community and donors, more than \$50,000 was raised to establish the Rootstock Endowment, creating a permanent source of funding for its ongoing operations and helping ensure students have reliable access to nutritious food for years to come.



Impacts



412 student visits
+100 over last year



Thousands of
food and hygiene
items distributed



107 meal bags picked up

New this year: In response to frequent requests, and to help fill the gap when SNAP benefits were temporarily suspended in November 2025, Rootstock launched a meal bag program. Each meal bag included ingredients for a full meal, along with meal planning and food preparation resources. Student feedback was very positive, and we plan to continue the program in the upcoming year.

Report on 2025-2026 Goals

Continue to look for long-term, permanent funding.

- In 2025-26, thanks to the generosity of donors, Rootstock successfully established a **\$50,000 endowment** to provide long-term support for the pantry.
- Trimble has committed **\$5,000 annually** to support Rootstock through an ongoing partnership.
- While the endowment grows toward supporting Rootstock's annual operating costs, the pantry will continue raising current-use funds each year to meet annual expenses of approximately **\$12,000 to \$15,000**.

Continue to streamline processes for Rootstock and evaluate future fundraising opportunities.

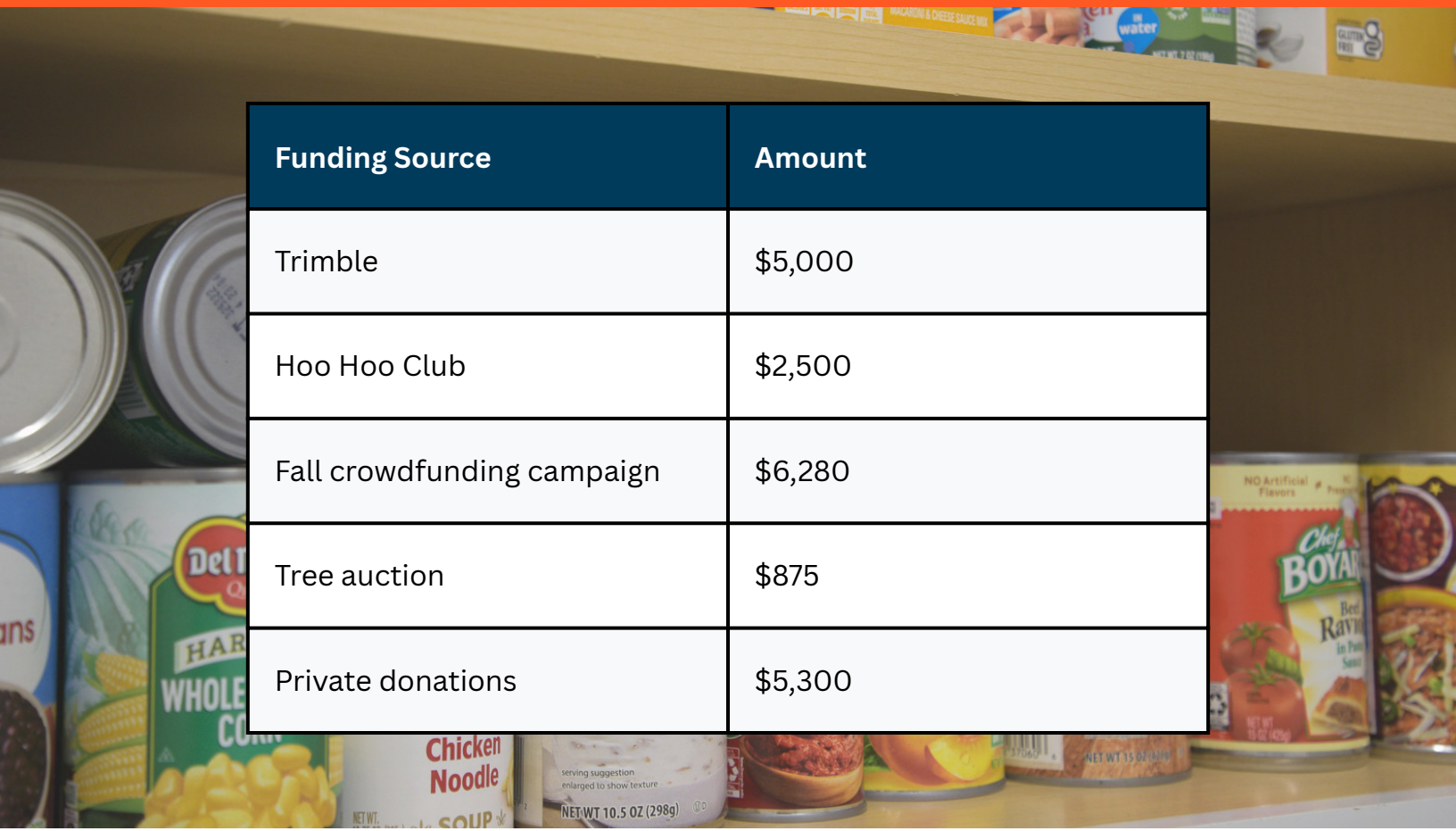
Due to logistical challenges and limited volunteer capacity, we transitioned from hosting the Art and Craft **Fair to the Firs for Food Security Tree Auction**. While the event successfully engaged new participants and demonstrated strong community support, attendance and bidding did not meet expectations. As a result, we have decided not to continue either event in 2026.

Improving the Student Experience

Thanks in large part to our two student workers, we made several improvements to enhance the student experience this year. At the food pantry, we improved the layout, flow, and organization of the space to create a more welcoming environment. We also introduced a new meal bag program and developed a variety of educational handouts covering topics such as meal preparation, food safety, and local community resources.

In addition, we partnered with the **Clothing Library** to improve its layout, organization, and overall browsing experience. We also hosted a free Clothing Swap, giving students the opportunity to exchange clothing at no cost. All remaining items from the event were donated to the Clothing Library to help support students throughout the year.

2025-2026 Funding Sources



Funding Source	Amount
Trimble	\$5,000
Hoo Hoo Club	\$2,500
Fall crowdfunding campaign	\$6,280
Tree auction	\$875
Private donations	\$5,300

Goals for 2026-2027

- Continue outreach to generate current-use funds while the endowment grows.
- Grow and expand meal bag program based on student feedback.
- Offer one training or partnership with the Basic Needs Center.