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EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION DONATES FOOD FROM 4-H BEEF SALE TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

A team of employees from Eastern States Exposition (ESE), headed by ESE President and CEO, Gene Cassidy, gathered to donate beef from the annual 4-H Beef Sale at The Big E to local not-for-profit food pantries. Their tour on Thursday, November 21, included stops at The Parish Cupboard, Open Pantry and Friends of the Homeless.

The 4-H Beef Program is a longstanding tradition at the Fair, and the multiple day showcase culminates in the 4-H Beef Sale. During the sale, individuals and representatives from local universities, businesses and other organizations support 4-H students by purchasing the steers that rising agricultural workers have raised and tended to for more than a year. This year, ESE purchased the Commended Overall and Second Place Mediumweight steers.

“ESE exists to promote our region’s agriculture and industry. An important aspect of that mission involves the direct support of youth engaged in growing the cattle that feed our country, some of the best of which can be purchased at auction at The Big E each year,” said Cassidy.

“Today, we celebrate youth in agriculture by distributing their product to our local population in need. Annually, Eastern States Exposition’s Board of Directors purchases steers at the auction to help support West Springfield and Agawam’s Parish Cupboard and Springfield’s Open Pantry and Friends of the Homeless. We challenge other businesses and organizations to consider participating in the auction. Your support of this program is key to the future of our national food supply,” Cassidy concluded.

ESE prides itself upon its commitment to community betterment, industrial advancements, the preservation of agriculture and the pursuit of education. The 4-H Beef Program honors its values by supporting the next generation of farmers, and ESE’s time-honored custom of donating the beef they purchased to local food pantries to bring its mission full circle.

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Since 1916

About Eastern States Exposition

It's always showtime at Eastern States Exposition (ESE), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation located in West Springfield, Mass. ESE is committed to excellence in providing opportunities for the development and promotion of agriculture, industry, education and family entertainment while preserving our New England heritage. The 175-acre campus holds five exhibition buildings, equivalent to 355,000 square feet of ground level indoor space. Their year-round, on-site dining and entertainment locations include Storowton Village Museum, Eastern States Farmers Market & Wine Café, Storowton Tavern & Carriage House. The facility also hosts more than 120 shows and events annually, such as The Big E, America's only multi-state fair, and Hooplandia, the Northeast's Ultimate 3x3 Basketball Tourney + Festival. For more information, check out EasternStatesExposition.com, or find us on [social media](#).



Above, L to R: Elena Hovagimian, Director of Agriculture at Eastern States Exposition; Dennis O'Connor, Parish Cupboard board member; Mayor Will Reichelt of the Town of West Springfield; Bob Fatsie, Executive Director at Parish Cupboard; Eastern States Exposition President and CEO, Gene Cassidy; and Steve Ferraro, Director of Operations at Eastern States Exposition, pose at Parish Cupboard after a successful beef donation.

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Above, L to R: Steve Ferraro, Director of Operations at Eastern States Exposition; Eastern States Exposition President and CEO, Gene Cassidy; and Michael Akers, Program Director at Open Pantry, pose before Open Pantry after a successful beef donation.

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Above, L to R: Jermaine Pam, Kitchen Manager at Friends of the Homeless and Eastern States Exposition President and CEO, Gene Cassidy, pose in front of Friends of the Homeless after a successful beef donation.

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