

SHARED MAINTENANCE

The Mississippi Food Network (MFN) has what is called a shared maintenance fee on some of the food accessed by Member Agencies. **Please note that USDA commodities do not have shared maintenance fees.**

Shared maintenance is a handling fee paid to MFN by member agencies in return for services provided to them by our food bank. **The cost is associated with soliciting, procuring, transporting, unloading, storing, distributing, and maintaining the integrity of the product donated, equal to a great deal more than the average \$0.16 per pound an Member Agency shares with MFN.**

Food banks pay rent or mortgage for the warehouse, cover building utility and maintenance costs; staff and equip the warehouse (including staffing and organizing food drives), operate large freezers and coolers and transport food, in their owned or leases trucks, to the food bank. Shared maintenance fee helps to defray a portion of these costs.

What does this mean?

The Mississippi Food Network (MFN) and the food that we distribute belong to our member agencies. The shared maintenance is a fee paid to a MFN when an agency orders (\$.16 per pound) and is based on the number of pounds ordered. This can be viewed as a deposit into the food bank to ensure that the food that belongs to each agency is stored and delivered properly. Much like a financial bank, a food bank takes the shared maintenance and utilizes its national resources to purchase and deliver the best products at the most economical rate to our member agencies. This process enables member agencies to operate one food distribution system (Mississippi Food Network), thereby saving individual charities the high cost of storage, personnel and transportation, which would be required to receive large food donations directly.