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Food drive planned to help local food banks

Western States Equipment and Albertsons are teaming up for 10 days in the equipment company's Dump Hunger food drive to benefit food banks in the Mid-Columbia.

The Pasco Albertsons store will collect nonperishable food donations from customers through Jan. 24. Albertsons will donate money based on the pounds of food collected.

Western States will continue to collect food through Feb. 9. The goal is to fill the beds of two Caterpillar 730 dump trucks with about 150,000 pounds of food.

"In addition to increasing our goal for gathering more food (up from 116,000 pounds in 2008), Western States will contribute \$1 for every five pounds of food collected, up to a \$17,000 match," said company president Tom Harris.

Nonperishable food can be dropped off at Western States at 2100 E. Frontier Loop, off Oregon Street in Pasco.