

CANNERIES AND FOOD PROCESSING PLANTS

Purpose

Church welfare canneries and food processing plants produce quality food such as the following for bishops' storehouses:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned meats
- Canned soups and chili
- Bottled jams, fruits, and sauces
- Bread
- Pasta
- Milk and other dairy products

When not producing food for bishops' storehouses, canneries offer opportunities to individuals and families to come and process a selection of products for their own family home storage. Annual schedules for family canning are shared with nearby stakes. Members sign up to do family canning when their stake is scheduled.

Welfare Labor Assignments

Church canneries and food processing plants are operated by a limited number of Church employees and Church-service missionaries called to serve in the facilities. However, most of the work in these facilities is done by volunteers fulfilling welfare assignments.

- Each year, the canneries and food processing plants determine how many volunteers are needed to meet production quotas for bishops' storehouse food and other commodities.
- Stakes receive welfare assignments to provide volunteers to work in these facilities. Stake leaders allocate the assignments among their wards and branches.
- Youth age 16 and older may be invited to participate in these welfare assignments.

When there are not enough volunteers to fulfill an assignment:

- Food ingredients that were prepared in advance for the production run must be discarded, costing the Church time and money.
- It makes it difficult for the facility to meet its production quota of food for bishops' storehouses.
- An entire harvest of a crop of vegetables may be lost because it was not canned in time to meet quality and freshness standards.
- It places an increased, unfair burden on other stakes and wards to make up for the unfulfilled welfare assignments.