

FOOD WASTE IN THE US

By the amount of food we throw away in the U.S. some estimates put that at 40 percent. You wouldn't think millions of Americans are going hungry. They are. And one reason - food's wasted, is because many supermarkets won't take imperfect-looking produce. Because many shoppers won't buy it.

Sarah Ramirez rescues some of that food, gives it to people in need and earns the title of CNN Hero.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

SARAH RAMIREZ, CNN HERO: Pixley is a small community located in the central park of California. We are in this agriculturally rich area, and yet people who live here and work here, are hungry, are impoverished. Some are working in the fields that feed the entire country. And then they don't have the resources to support them and - it's heartbreaking.

You can't just watch that and not wonder if there's something more that we could do.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

RAMIREZ: What we do is we clean mostly from backyards. Today, we are looking at a glean of about 6400 pounds. And that's incredible.

My husband and I grew up in Pixley. My parents, they worked in the fields. I had family members who died at very young ages due to chronic diseases like diabetes.

(on camera): And those of you that are high school students.

(voice over): Looking at these issues of poverty and obesity, we were trying to figure out how do we provide our resources for our community and our home.

We also have a component in our garden that's a you pick area. If your household needs some fruits and vegetables.

We really try to teach how to use what we are growing.

(on camera): Peach and cucumber.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Wow.

RAMIREZ (voice over): I want to grow old, and I want to grow old in the healthy way, and I want that for everybody.

(on camera): Thank you!

(END VIDEOTAPE)