



News Release
For Immediate Release
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SOUTHEAST MISSOURI FOOD BANK AND SEMO REDHAWKS TEAM UP AGAIN TO SACK HUNGER

Sikeston, MO (Aug. 28, 2026) – Southeast Missouri State University Athletics and Southeast Missouri Food Bank are teaming up for the fifth season of Sack Hunger, a campaign that turns defensive plays on the football field into meals for Southeast Missouri neighbors facing hunger.

For every sack recorded by the SEMO football defense during the 2026 season, participating sponsors will each donate \$100 to Southeast Missouri Food Bank to support its efforts to provide food to individuals and families across the region.

This year's Sack Hunger sponsors are Coalter Insurance, First Midwest Bank, Midwest Sterilization and the Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo. All four sponsors have supported the campaign for multiple years.

"We are excited to team up again this season with Southeast Missouri Food Bank and our generous partners in the fight against hunger," said SEMO Senior Associate Director of Athletics for External Operations Nate Saverino. "Southeast Missouri is Redhawks Country, and this partnership is a win-win for our sponsors and the communities we serve all across the region."

Last year's Sack Hunger campaign raised more than \$15,000 to help provide 60,000 meals to neighbors throughout Southeast Missouri.

"Having partners who continue to show up year after year means so much to our work," said Joey Keys, CEO of Southeast Missouri Food Bank. "We're incredibly grateful to Coalter Insurance, First Midwest Bank, Midwest Sterilization and the Sikeston Jaycee Bootheel Rodeo for their continued commitment to helping our neighbors facing hunger. We also want to thank SEMO Athletics for its continued support and for helping us connect the excitement of Redhawks football with the important work of fighting hunger across our region. We're excited to continue this partnership, cheer on the Redhawks this season and see just how many sacks — and meals — we can generate together."

Hunger continues to be a pressing issue across Southeast Missouri, with more than 69,000 individuals, or 1 in 5 people, experiencing food insecurity. That includes more than 20,000 children, or 1 in 4. Southeast Missouri Food Bank is seeing more people seeking food assistance throughout its 16-county service area and currently serves approximately 70,000 individuals each month.

Redhawks fans and Food Bank supporters are invited to the Sack Hunger tailgate before the SEMO football home opener on Saturday, Sept. 19, at Houck Stadium. The Redhawks will kick off at 6 p.m., and fans are encouraged to come early, stop by the Food Bank's tailgate and say hello before the game.

Fans can also help fight hunger while cheering on the SEMO Redhawks through a special ticket promotion. \$5.73 from every qualifying ticket for the Sept. 19 game purchased through the Southeast

Missouri Food Bank ticket link will support the Food Bank's work to fight hunger across Southeast Missouri.

Tickets are available at: semoredhawks.com/SEMOfoodBank573

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About Southeast Missouri Food Bank

The mission of Southeast Missouri Food Bank is to end hunger and leverage the power of food to build healthy communities. The food bank provides food to 140 charitable and disaster relief programs in Southeast Missouri. These member agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, domestic violence and homeless shelters. Southeast Missouri Food Bank also holds regular mobile food distributions and provides monthly boxes of food to 5,600 senior citizens and weekend backpacks of food during the school year to 1,100 students in area school districts. The food bank's 16-county coverage area includes Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Dunklin, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard and Wayne counties. Those interested in helping can do so by making a tax-deductible contribution, donating food, or scheduling a time to volunteer. Visit semofoodbank.org for more information.