

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL

3E'S OF HEALTHY LIVING
EDUCATION, EXERCISE AND EATING RIGHT

Lunch Program

May 17, 2021

Embedded attachments with this issue

Refer to the COVID Page for Updates

Your Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) newsletter has returned, but [SquareMeals.org/CVNSLP](https://www.squaremeals.org/CVNSLP) will still be your source for all COVID-19-related regulatory information. The most current information regarding program operations that has been modified due to COVID-19 will continue to be found on our Coronavirus page to ensure that TDA shares updates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in a way that is timely and consistent.



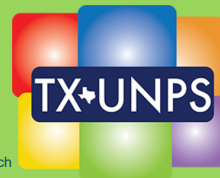
You Art What You Eat Art Contest Winners

The Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) 2021 You Art What You Eat art contest winners have been announced! Thank you to all of the students and sponsoring teachers/CNDs who participated the art contest this year. Visit our website www.SquareMeals.org/ArtContest to see the winning artwork in our "Gallery of Winners" and to see the newly announced 2022 art contest theme!

TX-UNPS Updates

2021-2022 Universal Breakfast Program Waiver

The Universal Breakfast Program Waiver application is now open! The application period runs from **March 15 – June 30, 2021**. School district campuses and open-enrollment charter schools participating in NSLP in which 80 percent or more of the students qualify for a free or reduced-price breakfast must offer a free breakfast to each student or seek a waiver from TDA, required by Senate Bill 376. TDA has notified all mandated schools by email. CEs that are mandated to offer free breakfast to all students and wish to apply for a waiver should use the Universal Breakfast Waiver School Year 2021-2022 form through TXUNPS Download Forms (SNP-000). All waiver requests must be submitted by June 30, 2021. Please refer to the [Universal Breakfast page](#) for details and instructions or contact your Education Service Center for assistance.



Resources

Share Your Summer Meals Kick-Off Events with TDA

[Click here](#) to complete a short survey to tell the Texas Department of Agriculture about how you are promoting summer meal sites in your community. TDA wants to know if you will be hosting kick-off events and other strategies that you are using to increase participation at summer meal sites. Kick-off events are a great way to build awareness among parents, recruit volunteers, and create excitement around the Summer Meal Programs. [Click here](#) to view TDA's Summer Best Practices Guidebook to learn how to plan and promote kick-off events.



Emergency Broadband Program

TDA wants to ensure schools are aware of a new broadband benefit program. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is launching a new temporary benefit where low-income households can receive \$50/month (\$70/month if on tribal lands) credited towards broadband services. Families are eligible for assistance if they receive SNAP or one or more children are certified for free and reduced priced school meals through the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program. There are additional ways families can qualify for this benefit program, [click here](#) to review all eligibility requirements.

Families may reach out to schools with questions about this program or for documentation they can use to apply. The Department of Ed has provided schools with a form they can provide to families to show eligibility via NSLP. For more information about the program, visit getemergencybroadband.org.

Food Safety: Protect Vulnerable Populations from Foodborne Illness

Populations served by summer meal sites are at an increased risk for foodborne illness. Young children's immune systems are still developing, which makes it harder to fight harmful pathogens. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, children are 4.5 times more susceptible to bacterial infections from food compared to adults aged 20-49 years. ICN has training materials for site managers to train the staff of a Summer Food Service Program site on food safety best practices. [Click here](#) to go to the ICN's food safety page. Then click on "Summer Food Service Programs" to access food safety resources for summer sites.

USDA Foods Update

Request for USDA Foods Contracted Warehouse Customer Service Feedback

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is requesting feedback from CEs regarding the customer service provided by our contracted warehouses in Program Year 2020-2021. Your responses will remain anonymous and help TDA maintain a high level of quality customer service.

Please complete this feedback request by Friday, May 28th. To access the survey, copy and paste the following link into your web browser:

<https://form.jotform.com/201284608979164>

We appreciate your participation and want to ensure we meet all of your expectations. If you have any questions, please email CommodityOperations@TexasAgriculture.gov.



NSLP Annual Inventory Counts at TDA Warehouses

TDA will be conducting inventory counts at the Contracted Warehouses during the months of May and June. For accurate counts to occur, TX-UNPS will be locked the Friday before each Region's count and will remain locked until the inventory is reconciled. CEs will not be able to place any new delivery orders for USDA Foods or perform any activity related to ordering in TX-UNPS during the time each Region is locked.

The dates of the inventory counts for each Warehouse/Region are:

Houston Food Bank (Region 3): 5/17 - 5/21
US Foods (Region 6): 6/7 - 6/8
ProValley Foods (Region 5): 6/7 - 6/9
Central Texas Food Bank (Region 8): 6/14 - 6/15
Forte Frozen (Regions 1 & 2): 6/14 - 6/18
San Antonio Food Bank (Region 4): 6/21 - 6/23

Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

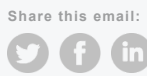
Submit Your Farm Fresh Challenge Attestation Today!

The first ever [Spring Farm Fresh Challenge](#) concluded last Friday! Over 132 Texas schools and organizations pledged to serve more Texas products to children and teach them about local agriculture. Through this challenge, a priority was placed on spending dollars on locally grown and produced foods and more than 1.9 million children were exposed to the goodness of Texas agriculture. A big hats-off to the organizations that successfully completed the challenge. To receive recognition, complete the attestation form today. [Submit now!](#)



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