

USDA Foods Updates

Jaclyn Cantu, RD
Director for USDA Foods



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711

Toll Free: (877) TEX-MEAL | For the hearing impaired: (800) 735-2989 (TTY)

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Updated 8/30/2023
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Food and Nutrition Division
Food Distribution Program

Training Plan

2023-24 Statewide Rollout



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E-Auth Set Up

E-Authentication Accounts

- TDA sent all Non-Pilot RAs an email to set up their E-Authentication Accounts by September 1st.
 - Users with Logins for FFAVORS already have an E-Auth account.
 - Account allows access to WBSCM post training.
 - Electronic form attached to communicate the account was set up.
 - ESC CNPs can assist if you get stuck!
- USDA will be changing this process September 11, 2023 and

***** WBSCM ACCOUNT SETUP OCCURS DURING TRAINING WITH ESCs *****

Statewide Training

ESC Training Plans

- TDA has approved all ESC training plans for WBSCM.
- ESCs will deliver TDA standardized training so all RAs will receive the same information.
 - ESCs will be advertising training dates soon
 - Training options will be virtual and in person.

***** WBSCM ACCOUNT SETUP OCCURS DURING TRAINING WITH ESCs *****

ESC WBSCM Trainings

- Trainings offered September- November
- WBSCM training environment is only available Tuesday – Thursday.
- No more the 200 users in the training environment at a given time
- 17-25 people assigned to one user login.
- Work with your ESC if the training dates offered don't work for you.

***** WBSCM ACCOUNT SETUP OCCURS DURING TRAINING WITH ESCs *****

ESC Training Groups

ESC	Location	RAs
17	Lubbock	58
18	Midland	25
19	El Paso	23
9	Wichita Falls	38
15	San Angelo	46
20	San Antonio	78

ESC	Location	RAs
5	Beaumont	-
3	Victoria	24
13	Austin	78
2	Corpus Christi	17
11	Ft. Worth	84
12	Waco	85

ESC	Location	RAs
4	Houston	-
10	Richardson	110

ESC	Location	RAs
16	Amarillo	60
14	Abilene	43
1	Edinburg (S. TX)	1
6	Huntsville	18
7	Kilgore (NE TX)	98
8	Texarkana area	38

*** WBSCM ACCOUNT SETUP OCCURS DURING TRAINING WITH ESCs ***

USDA Foods Ordering and Inventory Update

ORDERING UPDATE

Ordering Updates Overview

- Rate of Assistance adjustment in TX-UNPS and WBSCM for School Year 2024 has been completed. This has resulted in a decrease in entitlement allocated to schools at the beginning of the year.
- All TX-UNPS processing surveys have been reconciled. This resulted in entitlement returned to “Processing Reserved – Remaining” if pounds requested have been filled through SY23 carry-over or not ordered.

ORDERING UPDATE

Ordering Updates Overview

Non-Pilot Schools (TX-UNPS)

- SquareMeals has been updated to include the SY24 Requested and Allocated spreadsheet for Non-Pilot Schools. This spreadsheet allows cross reference of what was originally requested vs what should be loaded into tracking systems.
- TX-UNPS is now open for an additional ordering opportunity for Direct Delivery (Brown Box) coming into State Contracted Warehouses.

Surveys must be completed by 09/01/2023 at 5:00PM.

ORDERING UPDATE

Ordering Updates Overview

Pilot Schools (WBSCM)

- Schools can run a Requisition Status Report to validate Direct Delivery and Processing Diversions, this replaces the allocation list posted to SquareMeals.
 - Status of Sales Order: Cancelled, Approved by SDA, Purchased, Order Received
 - Does the processor front load? If they do not, you will have to wait for truckloads to be delivered before you see it loaded for drawdown in tracking systems.
- Schools in Pilot do not have an available ordering opportunity at this time. Pilot was given opportunity to request Direct Delivery in June to bring into Gold Star.

ORDERING UPDATE

USDA Foods Ordering – Processing Diversions

- At this time TDA is not offering additional opportunities to bring in processing diversions. Why?
 - TDA redistributed over 20 million lbs. of carry over from the previous year.
 - For perspective, the average cost per pound last year was \$1.25 resulting in more than \$25 million entitlement dollars that could have been utilized in other USDA Foods Methods.
 - Texas had a usage of ~100,214 million lbs. in SY23 and ordered ~104,518 million lbs for SY24.
 - TDA fulfilled ~97% of all processing requests made either through redistribution or ordered lbs.

ORDERING UPDATE

USDA Foods Ordering “What’s Next?”

- TDA will continue to monitor usage to determine if any additional opportunities for realizing entitlement values in USDA Foods methods are required.
- TDA will be hosting sessions during September on Wednesdays with school serviced by each Contracted Warehouse Region.
 - Goals: To discuss previous years trends of direct delivery requests made. What is asked for vs what can be ordered.
 - Goals: Understand what materials are driving truckloads coming into your warehouse to aid in forecasting next year.

INVENTORY UPDATE

TDA Surplus (non-pilot CEs) –There is still a little bit of surplus left raw beef patties and chicken fajita strips at Forte Frozen and San Antonio Food Bank.

TDA has/is adjusting the allocation cost to \$0.00 for all surplus entitlement items that was carried over from SY23.

*TDA Surplus (pilot CEs) – Gold Star Foods Training Video. Video will show you how to utilize the Advertisements function on their online ordering system.

INVENTORY UPDATE

Fuel Surcharge – The cost of diesel has increased and remains at a higher range within the last four weeks, prompting TDA to approve for warehouses the option to incur a \$0.12 fuel surcharge per case.

This is based on allowable cost adjustments laid out in TDA's Request for Proposal. Warehouses that opt to apply the charge must separate this fee out on a separate line item on the delivery invoice.

INVENTORY UPDATE

Sensitive shelf-life items

A friendly reminder from TDA to request for all allocated cooler items to be delivered at your earliest available delivery date.

Farm to School has started and various cheese material codes have arrived and have been allocated.

TDA will continue to monitor draw down of these items and may force a delivery for CEs that sit on these items.

Let's start the year on the right foot and avoid spoilage and loss to our sensitive shelf-life USDA Foods!

NOTE: TDA will be reviewing all inventory per month and in December will be communicating with those schools that show no usage and will ask what the plan is to utilize those commodities.

INVENTORY UPDATE

Private Storage Fees and Delivery Fees

-Reports have been posted on Squaremeals.

Email will be sent out regarding the process if you see that the amounts have been misreported and would like for TDA to review before reimbursements are issued.

Request for Proposal (RFP)

- Commercial Warehouse and Food Distribution Services is going to be sent out in December

INVENTORY UPDATE

Commodity Processing

Measured Data- Usage, carryover, carryover by category, transfers and denials.

Reminders- utilize your pounds that you requested

Timeline - TDA will be posting a timeline that will have the dates of when we will be conducting the No Usage exercises through out the school year.

Monthly- TDA will be reviewing usage every month

November- TDA will be gathering the schools with no usage at this point

December-TDA will be reaching out to the Schools to find out why there is no usage and what the plan is to utilize those pounds.