

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

Lunch Program

June 7, 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 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.



Summer Meal Program Meal Site Experience Video for Families

TDA has created a new video resource that walks families through the summer meal site experience from start to finish. This video shares the three ways a parent can locate a site, illustrates the various ways meals may be served this summer (grab and go, bulk meal pick-up, etc.) and reinforces how simple it is to access these nutritious meals! Share the trailer in [English](#) or [Spanish](#) on your social platforms. Click on the image for the full length video.

Policy Updates



USDA Policy Memos

SP 12-2021 - Department of Education Information on the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program can be found [here](#).

Forms Releases

The following SNP-related forms have been released and posted. All can be found in the [Forms table](#) on SquareMeals:

School Meal Applications

- 2021-2022 Standard (Multi-Child) Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals (English and Spanish)
 - 2021-2022 Multi-Use Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals (English and Spanish)
 - 2021-2022 Multi-Child Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals (Nonpublic School Version) (English and Spanish)
 - 2021-2022 Application Directions (English and Spanish)
 - 2021-2022 Application Letter to the Household for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals (English and Spanish)
- (NOTE: The documents listed above can also be accessed at:
<https://squaremeals.org/Programs/NationalSchoolLunchProgram/EligibilityandVerification/HouseholdApplications.aspx>)

Additionally, the following Special Milk Program documents have been released and posted [here](#):

<http://squaremeals.org/Programs/SpecialMilkProgram/SMPAdministration&Forms.aspx>

- 2021-2022 Multi-Child Application for Free Milk
- 2021-2022 Application Directions
- 2021-2022 Application Letter to the Household for Free Milk

Revised ARM Sections

Several revisions to the ARM were released today as follows (Note that the Update Guide section located at the beginning of the section provides detailed information about the topics addressed in this release):

Section 4, *Eligibility Determination* was updated to remove “designated state-funded pre-kindergarten programs” as an acceptable type of other source categorical eligibility.

Substantive guidance changes and clarifications were made to **Section 17, *Procurement and Section 17c, *Cooperative Purchasing**** regarding the following:

- Aggregate for micro-purchasing
- Buy boards and subscription services
- Conflicting program regulations
- Cooperative agreements
- Cost analysis
- Forecasting
- Inadequate competition
- Noncompetitive procurement
- Off-bid purchases
- Third-party cooperatives

Finally, the definitions for “aggregate purchase amount” and “micro-purchase method” were updated in the following sections:

- Section 15, *Program Integrity*

- Section 16a, *Contract Management*
- Section 17a, *Procurement Procedures*
- Section 17b, *Buy American*
- Section 18, *Food Service Contracts*

You can find these sections and a complete searchable ARM at

<http://www.squaremeals.org/Programs/NationalSchoolLunchProgram/NSLPPolicy&ARM.aspx>

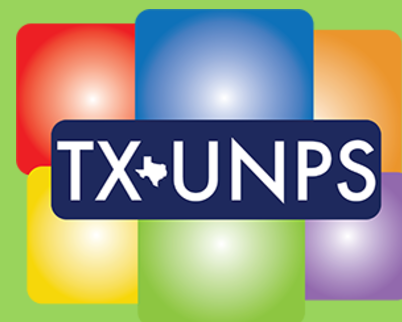
Please replace any previous versions of the above sections that you may have saved.

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.



CEP Due Date Extension

CEP Reports were due to TDA on June 5, 2021. If you failed to submit this report by the due date, please do so immediately to allow TDA time to prepare their required reports. TDA must post the list of possible CEP eligible districts and sites on SquareMeals.org by June 30, 2021. SFAs that intend to elect CEP for SY 2021-2022 must notify TDA by September 30, 2021. CEP election is completed via the **2022 TX-UNPS application packet**.

CEs that already submitted CEP site data, may update those submissions to reflect current identified students using the parameters described above and resubmit the form to TDA by June 5, 2021. **Do not submit data for sites designated as COVID “CV” sites.**

The CEP list reporting screen in TX-UNPS can be found by first navigating to the **Applications** tab. Once in the Applications tab, select **Community Eligibility Provision**. Select **Add** under the Action column for School year 2020-2021 located within the CEP Site List. Please ensure accurate data entry as the data will have a direct impact on claims for those that participate in CEP. The data entered is also reported to USDA and the Public.

For additional information on the CEP Report, see the *Administrator's Reference Manual (ARM), Section 5, Special Provision Options*.

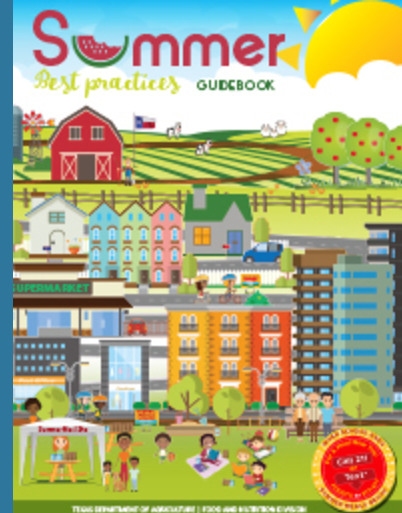
Resources

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

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Programs. [Click here](#) to view TDA's Summer Best Practices Guidebook to learn how to plan and promote kick-off events.



No Kid Hungry Summer Meals Toolkit

This **Summer Meals Toolkit** developed by No Kid Hungry has customizable materials such as social media images, sample social media posts, postcards and more—in both English and Spanish to help schools communicate with families the summer meal offerings in your area.

Share P-EBT Outreach Materials with Families

Download outreach materials from **TEA's COVID-19 Support: Child Nutrition webpage**. P-EBT application is open June 2 – August 13. If families have question, they can visit hhs.texas.gov/pebt (English) or hhs.texas.gov/es/pebt (Spanish), or call the **P-EBT Call Center at 833-442-1255**, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST.

Program Year Calendar

Keeping up with important dates has just gotten easier! The Program Year Calendar covers four of the main programs administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture, including the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP), the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs (NSLP/SBP), and the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option (SFSP/SSO).

These programs occasionally have overlapping deadlines and other information. Those items appear in the left most column. Items specific to each program appear directly under the given program abbreviation.

The new **Program Year Calendar** is now available on SquareMeals.org. It features deadlines and other reminders for the following programs:

- CACFP
- NSLP/SBP
- SFSP/SSO

To find the Program Year Calendar on SquareMeals.org, navigate to the relevant program and look under that program's menu. To get started, here is a [direct link](#) to the calendar.

Apply for TDA Grant to Expand Farm Fresh Activities in Schools!

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is now accepting applications for the **Expanding the 3E's Nutrition Education Grant**. Funds are available for public schools to use for expanding nutrition education programs. TDA's objective is to increase awareness of the importance of good nutrition and to encourage children's health and well-being through the 3E's of Healthy Living — Education, Exercise and Eating Right.

Grant recipients can use the funds to pay for **Farm Fresh** activities — fun and educational nutrition projects that will contribute to improving children's health and well-being. The maximum award is **\$10,000 per school or \$50,000 per district**. Applications are due **June 17, 2021**.

Please share this grant opportunity with school districts in your region. For details about this grant, including the application and related deadlines, please visit the **3E's Grant Programs Web page**. Learn more about the Farm Fresh Initiative by visiting at SquareMeals.org/TexasFarmFresh. For questions regarding this opportunity, please contact the TDA Grants Office at Grants@TexasAgriculture.gov.

Opportunity to Provide Feedback on USDA Resource

The Office of Community Food Systems is partnering with Team Nutrition to update the [Great Garden Detective Adventure](#). This curriculum connects the school garden to the classroom, school cafeteria, and home using hands-on, sensory experiences for 3rd and 4th graders. The USDA would love help with feedback on this gardening resource. Please reach out to Mimi Wu at mimi.wu@usda.gov for further details before June 18, 2021.

Upcoming Webinar

This webinar from FRAC entitled *Planning for Next School Year: Waivers, Meal Service Options, Best Practices and School Meal Application Outreach* will feature school districts from across the country as they look ahead to next school year and share their best practices, tips for switching to the Seamless Summer Option, strategies to collect school meal applications, and much more. Register [here](#).

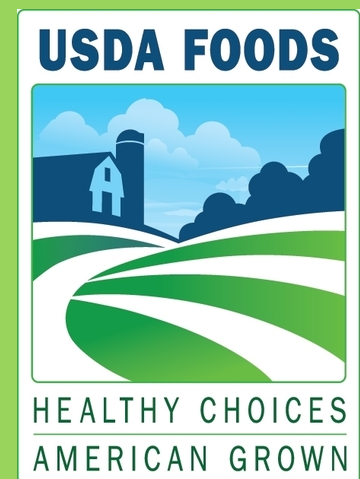
Food Safety Starts with You: Handwashing

Practicing proper hand hygiene reduces the risk of both foodborne illness and COVID-19. Educate staff on proper hand washing: Wash hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds then rinse and dry with a clean towel or cloth. [Click here](#) to review when staff should wash their hands. Download handwashing posters and order free printed materials at www.cdc.gov/handwashing/campaign.html.

USDA Foods Update

SY2022 USDA Foods Warehouse Update Webinars for CEs

TDA has posted the recorded webinars conducted over the past couple weeks on our www.squaremeals.org website. To access the webinars, along with a PDF file of the slides used and an one-pager reference sheet, click on the Food Distribution Program for NSLP program link, then click on Contracted Warehouses. The information can then be found in each respective FDP Region section on the page (click on the "+" button to expand to reveal the "SY2022 NSLP Resources" banner).



PY 2022 Farm to School Survey is Now Open

The PY 2022 Farm to School survey is now open and available for the CEs who are participating in the Farm to School Program to submit requests. The survey will remain open until Friday, July 30, 2021 to allow participants to submit their requests to secure fresh produce through Texas Farmers and Produce Vendors.

The PY 2022 Farm to School seasonal items will be: pears, apples, grapefruits, and oranges. Due to the extreme freeze and flooding which shortened the growing season, watermelons will NOT be available for PY 2022.

If you have any questions, please email CommodityOperations@TexasAgriculture.gov or contact us at 1-877-TEX-MEAL

Region 3 Warehouse Update

All NSLP USDA Foods have been transferred from the Houston Food Bank warehouse to the Gold Star Foods warehouse. CEs will now be able to place their TX-UNPS delivery orders from Gold Star for PY 2021-2022. The earliest available delivery dates in the system start in July. However, If you would like to receive a June delivery or pick up, you will need to place an order for your first available delivery date and then contact Gold Star Foods to confirm if they are able to arrange for an earlier delivery or pick up. Gold Star Foods contact information is 1-800-546-2215.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

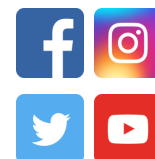
Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

Congratulations to Child Nutrition Programs that Completed the 2021 Spring Farm Fresh Challenge

TDA has just concluded its spring Farm Fresh Challenge! Over 132 Texas schools and organizations pledged to serve more Texas products to children and teach them about local agriculture. Through this challenge, more than 8.2 million dollars was spent on local foods and more than 1.9 million children were exposed to the goodness of Texas grown products. A big hats-off to the organizations that successfully completed the challenge and will receive recognition. To learn more about the Farm Fresh Challenge, visit SquareMeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge.



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