



This information is to keep you informed of any changes in policies and procedures and of new communication originating from the State Office this month.

November 5, 2018 CE Edition

No Attachments with this issue

You Art What You Eat Art Contest

Each year, the Texas Department of Agriculture's (TDA) *You Art What You Eat* art contest offers Texas students a chance to earn statewide recognition for themselves and their school. You can help encourage participation in the contest by ordering TDA's promotional items for your schools today. The colorful posters are available at no cost and they can be displayed in school hallways to remind students and teachers that they can participate in the **4th Annual *You Art What You Eat*** art contest. This year TDA is also offering student bookmarks at no cost to remind students and parents to participate in the contest!

The posters and bookmarks are in **both English and Spanish** (front and back) and will arrive in time for you to distribute to each school before TDA begins accepting entries on **February 11, 2019**. Please order by clicking [here](#). Quantities are limited, so please order soon.

To enter, students must create artwork highlighting good nutrition and TDA's themes for National School Lunch Week 2019 and/or National School Breakfast Week 2020. More information about the contest can be found on SquareMeals.org/artcontest.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and please join TDA in encouraging students to focus their artistic talents on healthy school meals by entering the *You Art What You Eat* statewide student art contest.



TX-UNPS Updates

2019 Texas Summer Mandate Notification and Waiver

Texas Legislation requires school districts in which 50% or more of the enrolled children are eligible to receive free/reduced price NSLP meal benefits to participate in a summer meal program, based on the March 2018 claim. All mandated school districts received an email notification of their requirement as well as instructions for submitting their intent in TX-UNPS.

If requesting a waiver, state law requires the board of trustees to send a written notice of the district's intention to the local school health advisory council (SHAC) no later than **November 30**. The notice must include an explanation of the district's reason



for requesting a waiver of the requirement. CEs should retain this letter for their records, but TDA does not need a copy of this letter as part of the mandate process.

Please submit your intent for summer 2019, or submit a mandate waiver request in TX-UNPS by the **January 31, 2019** deadline. More information as well as the instructions and a list of mandated CEs can be found at Squaremeals.org/summerwaivers.

Direct Certification Medicaid Report Due!

The Direct Certification Medicaid Report is due November 15th. All CEs should have received a link to the report on November 1st. If the link was **NOT** received, please let **Lee Ann Dumas** know as soon as possible.

The SFA Verification Report opens in TX-UNPS Wed., November 7th. CEs are strongly encouraged to do the practice template located on [Square Meals Forms and Tools](#). There are a number of edit checks in the practice template that will walk you through completing the report and make it much simpler to enter the correct data into TX-UNPS. The count of students that will be reported on Section 3 of the Verification Report **must** equal the count of students reported on the Direct Certification Medicaid Report. It's the same students on the same day – the DC Medicaid Report just breaks the numbers into more groups.

Training Update

Recent updates to MENU Module training Modules 1-7 are now available on [SquareMeals](#). In addition to these updates, Module 8 *School Cafe* Training is now available in the MENU training on [SquareMeals](#). There are also two new resources to assist CEs in creating a *School Cafe* account, including a one-pager guide and a Cheat Sheet for setting up *School Cafe*.



Texas Farm Fresh Initiative



Farm Fresh Challenge Update

The Farm Fresh Challenge for 2018 wrapped up last Wednesday with some very impressive stats. 232 Contracting entities in Texas pledged their participation in the annual challenge. These districts served 54 million meals in the month of October to 2.8 million students. Not to mention all of the great learning opportunities and social media posts shared to round out the challenge.

All participation documentation must be submitted no later than November 15th, 2018. Complete the attestation form [here](#).

Now Available! Grant Funding Available to Expand Farm Fresh Fridays in Schools

Research shows that children who are familiar with growing their own food tend to eat more fruits and vegetables! Public schools in Texas may be eligible to receive grant funds to support this kind of educational opportunity by expanding existing garden programs or creating new ones. TDA is now accepting applications for the Expanding the 3E's Nutrition Education Grant (X3E) to help expand **Farm Fresh Friday** activities which include school gardens, taste testing, farmer visits, and much more! Applications are due December 6, 2018. For details, please visit the [3E's Grant Programs Web page](#). Learn more about Farm Fresh Fridays by visiting FarmFreshFriday.org. Farm Fresh resources and success stories from past grantees are available at SquareMeals.org/TexasFarmFresh. Help us share information about this grant opportunity using our easy to use **Copy Paste Promo Kit**.

Make Seasonal Cooking and Eating Easy!

Cooking for the **Seasons Cookbook** is now available to make seasonal cooking and eating easy.

Chef created and kid approved recipes in **Cooking for the Seasons** will make cooking and eating seasonally in the NSLP easy and delicious. View this online cookbook to get inspiration for the changing seasons and to serve more Texas foods in meals and snacks.

Stay Connected — Subscribe to TDA's Farm Fresh E-Harvest

This newsletter provides a monthly update on farm to school and includes resources such as funding opportunities, a schedule of upcoming trainings and webinars, and more. Archive issues of the E-Harvest are available [here](#). **Subscribe today!**

Connect with your partners at TDA today at FarmFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov.

USDA Foods Updates

Weighted Average Adjustment/TLS Update

On Tuesday, October 23, 2018, TDA adjusted the TLS (Total Lunches Served) to reflect last school year's [SY 2017-2018] final meal counts for NSLP + SSO (National School Lunch Program + Seamless Summer Option). Also, TDA adjusted entitlement as result of the USDA's adjustment at the State level for SY 2018-2019, adjusted the per pound pricing for the weighted average of all Further Processing items, and adjusted the per case price for the weighted average for the first season of Farm to School peaches, watermelons, apples, grapefruits, and oranges.



****These adjustments resulted in an overall impact to entitlement values for the current program year. Please check your Weekly Commodity Bulletin to review the beginning entitlement value, the processing reserved-used value, and the entitlement remaining value.****

Trade Mitigation Purchases for Schools

As part of the Administration's Trade Mitigation program, USDA will administer a Food Purchase and Distribution Program to purchase up to \$1.2 billion of USDA Foods. The specific products to be purchased are those impacted by the tariffs imposed by other nations. More information on the overall Trade Mitigation Program can be found in the [USDA Press Release](#) from August 27, 2018.

To ensure schools can take full advantage of Trade Mitigation bonus offerings in the least disruptive way, USDA will offer several products to schools for ordering in the January-February 2019 time frame for deliveries starting in July 2019. This plan will align with the typical USDA Foods in Schools ordering schedule and allow deliveries early in school year 2019-2020. USDA continues to work with the Agricultural Marketing Service to select the specific products that will be offered to schools to ensure products are offered that can be most readily used by schools, are in appropriate pack sizes, and are available in large enough quantities. This plan may change depending on market conditions or other factors.

As USDA provides more information, TDA will notify schools with further instructions.

[Previous Issue](#)



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

This product is funded by USDA. This institution is an
equal opportunity provider

By unsubscribing, be aware that this email address will no longer get required communication from TDA via this distribution method. It is up to the organization to find an alternative method of obtaining the information as your organization will still be responsible for all content contained in the communications.