



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.

February 5, 2018 SFA Edition

Attachments with this issue:

- [USDA Summer Meals Newsletter for Sponsors](#)
- [SFSP Reimbursement Rates for 2018](#)

National School Breakfast Week

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is ready to help you and your schools "Dive into a Healthy School Breakfast" during School Breakfast Week (SBW) in 2018. This year's posters are on their way to you right now. Every elementary school in Texas gets their own set of three age-appropriate posters, and middle and high schools get a different set of posters. If possible, please check in with the main office and let them know you are expecting a delivery.

These posters will not include SBW dates and are designed to fit in tri-a-ramas, the three-poster ceiling display systems. Cafeterias may display them in other ways too. In addition to posters, TDA is now offering online downloadable resources like morning announcements, menus, activity sheets and much more. The online resources can be found [here](#).



TX-UNPS Updates



Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

The SSO module (located under Site Applications) is now open and available in the 2017-2018 Application Packet. When processing SSO site applications, CEs must ensure that they also submit the application packet for approval as the last step of the submission process.

SSO site applications in Submitted status cannot be reviewed by TDA until the application packet is also in submitted status. Claims cannot be processed on unapproved site applications.

Policy News

Revised ARM

The following revised ARM Sections have been released and posted:

- ARM Section 7, Counting and Claiming
- ARM Section 11, Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) Meal Pattern for School Nutrition Program (SNP) Operators
- ARM Section 13, Accommodating Students with Medical Disabilities and Special Dietary Needs

We have also posted ARM Update Guide 2017-2018 which gives details about the revisions. We are continuing to post ARM Update Guide 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 so CEs have access to revision made during those school years.

You can find the ARM, ARM Update Guides and a complete searchable ARM [here](#).

Please replace any previous versions of ARM Section 7, 11 and 13 that you may have saved.

Federal Register Posting

Attached is the Federal Register SFSP Reimbursement Rates for 2018. The SFSP rates of reimbursement located on SquareMeals have been updated [here](#).



Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

New! Advancing Equity Through Farm to School

February 13 // 3-4pm ET

Racial and social equity is recognized as a central tenet of farm to school. Join NFSN partners and staff on February 13 at 3pm ET to review an equity statement and to hear from farm to school practitioners about their successes and challenges with advancing equity through farm to school. This webinar is open to the public and will be recorded and archived. [Register here](#).



Look Ahead to the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference

The 2018 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference will be hosted in Cincinnati, OH, April 25-27! This conference is the perfect opportunity to connect with others working on farm to school, child and summer activities from around the nation. There will be field trips, short course, workshops and other opportunities to learn, connect and share in the farm to school inspiration. Visit the [conference website](#) for all additional details.

NEW Scholarship opportunities are available until February 12, 2018 8pm ET. [Apply for a scholarship today](#).

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

CEs that want to participate in the DoD Fresh Program must check YES next to the program question in the Contracting Entity Information Update screen. To have all, or a portion of a CE entitlement dedicated for use in this program, the CE must check YES.

The only checklist item required for SY 2019 is for CEs choosing to participate in the DoD Fresh Program. CEs that checked YES to participate in this program must complete the DoD information sheet via the electronic JotForm link. Disregard that link and, instead, copy and paste

the following URL into a web browser to access and complete:
<https://form.jotform.com/TDAHelpdesk/dod-fresh-program-in>

Once the CE has completed the Contracting Entity Information Update screen, the Checklist screen and updated all of the Contact and Delivery Location information, 5 green checkmarks will be visible indicating the Contract Packet can now be submitted. The CE should click the "Submit for Approval" button and the status display will switch to submitted.



The deadline for the FDP Contract Packet and Checklist items to be completed and submitted has been extended to **Wednesday, February 7, 2018.**

[Previous Issue](#)



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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