

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

July 19, 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://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.

TX-UNPS Updates

Seamless Summer Option Program Year 2022 (SSO PY22)

As of July 15, 2021, site applications for SSO PY22 are open in TX-UNPS. Please update and submit all SSO site applications that you intend to operate for October 2021 through the remainder of the school year.



Policy Updates

Federal Register Posting

Attached is a Federal Register for National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs, National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates. The effective dates are July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. These new rates are available on SquareMeals here: <https://squaremeals.org/Programs/NationalSchoolLunchProgram/ReimbursementRates.aspx>



Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

Register Today for the October Farm Fresh Challenge

TDA has the resources you need to bring the fun and excitement of local foods to your students during the October Farm Fresh Challenge. The challenge is open to any Texas school operating the National School Lunch Program, Seamless Summer Option or Summer Food Service Program for the 2021-2022 school year. Schools earn TDA recognition by meeting the challenge parameters — Eat Local, Teach Local, and Be Social. Please visit [Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge](https://squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge) to pledge participation in the October Farm Fresh Challenge!

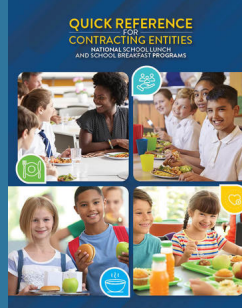


Resources and Opportunities

Quick References Now Available for CEs!

TDA has been busy making it easier for CEs to learn about programs offered by TDA. The new Quick References provide CEs an overview of the program, including how they can participate! Quick References are available for all Child Nutrition Programs.

You can find the NSLP Quick Reference by visiting the Get Started page on [SquareMeals.org](https://squaremeals.org)!



Updated Tracker Tool for Professional Standards

A new feature is now available on the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT). Team Nutrition appreciates receiving user feedback on the PSTTT and works continuously to enhance the user experience. Users can select a training title from a list of training titles available on the PSTTT and information related to the training, such as the length of the training, training provider, key area(s), training topic(s), and learning objective(s) will auto-populate. If users do not find the training they completed on the PSTTT training list, they may manually add the new training title and information to the list. With the latest update, users will now be able to easily upload multiple new training titles at one time to be included in the PSTTT instead of adding one at a time.

Track your professional standards required training hours today using USDA's free Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool!

Announcing Turnip the Beet 2021

The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding Summer Meal Program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. All Summer Meal Programs sponsors in good standing, including Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors and National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sponsors, may be eligible for a Turnip the Beet Award. Sponsors who used USDA waivers in response to COVID-19 are eligible. Visit TDA's [Turnip the Beet page](#) for more info and to apply by September 3, 2021!

New Procurement Training Series

TDA is providing a new series of training on procurement. Procurement Process Basics web-based training and webinar are now posted on the [Squaremeals.org](https://squaremeals.org) website [here](#).

Additional procurement training opportunities will cover the procurement Review processes in the administrative review, Food Service Management Company Contracts and Cooperative Contracts. More information on webinar dates and the release of new web-based trainings will be communicated.

Exhibit A Grains Tool Webinar Captioned in Spanish!

USDA's Team Nutrition initiative is pleased to announce the release of the "How to Maximize the Exhibit A Grains Tool" English webinar with captions in Spanish. This webinar demonstrates enhancements to the Exhibit A Grains Tool, which is a feature included with the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) Interactive Web-Based Tool and FBG Mobile App. The Exhibit A Grains Tool allows a user to search for a grain product (as listed on Exhibit A) and enter in the serving size from the product label. The tool then helps the user determine:

1. ounce equivalent (oz eq) grains or grains/bread serving(s) for the grain product,
2. amount to serve to provide a desired grains contribution, and
3. amount to serve for a grain product in the order to meet the minimum grains requirement by age/grade groups for specific Child Nutrition Programs.

The webinar can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-training-resources>.

Get Involved!

2022 Art Contest Theme Announced

TDA's 2022 You Art What You Eat art contest theme is "Get Your Day in Gear with a Healthy School Breakfast/ Lunch". For more details about the art contest, guidelines, submission forms, and to enter the contest visit [SquareMeals.org/ArtContest](https://squaremeals.org/ArtContest).



Did You Participate in the 2021 Art Contest? We Want to Hear from You!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 You Art What You Eat art contest. We want to hear about your experience. This survey should only take about 5 minutes. Visit [SquareMeals.org/ArtContest](https://squaremeals.org/ArtContest) to access the survey.





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