

# USDA FOODS UPDATE WEBINAR

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

September 24, 2019

Q: Will this PowerPoint be uploaded into SharePoint?

A: It will be on the [squaremeals.org](http://www.squaremeals.org/Publications/Presentations.aspx) website for you to access and in its entirety via the recording. <http://www.squaremeals.org/Publications/Presentations.aspx>

---

Q: I'm a new director and I am wondering if there are any additional videos or training that I can have?

A: In addition to the resource links that we have provided in the presentation today, we also encourage you to utilize the American Commodity Distribution Association (ACDA), you can go to [www.commodityfoods.org](http://www.commodityfoods.org). There is an entire website committed to training resources for USDA Foods. Although some information is available in a member only portion of the site, there is also information available without needing a log on, to access resources. TDA will continue to provide this type of update and will be hosting a conference the week of May 11, 2019, where more USDA foods training will be provided.

---

Q: Would you provide guidance to the districts that are in a very large ESC-based coop as to how they go about bringing the CE's in the coop together to create by-laws when that has never o

Q: If we get the notice that we have 100 cases of a product coming into warehouse on a month and the product does not show up in our bulletin to order as scheduled or in a smaller quantity, do we need to notify someone? If so, who?

A: Yes, if you are anticipating an order from the weekly commodity bulletin and don't see it, please contact TDA. Typically, once that truck is receipted, your anticipated allocations will disappear from the bottom section for inbound shipments in your Weekly Commodity Bulletin, and then show up at the top as a allocated product in free storage.

If a product is still listed as inbound past the anticipated due date, please contact TDA. We are working on our communication strategy concerning late shipments and how we monitor them.

---

Q: just wanted to get clarification on the warehouse request you were making? You needed people? thank you!

A: TDA will be soliciting new vendors for statewide storage and distribution services. Please share information that you may have on interested parties. They must be able to hold food safely and distribute product. Please provide the contact information for interested parties to TDA so that we can make sure they are on the list to receive a copy of the RFP, when released.

---

Q: Question- Will this count towards Professional Standards?

A: No, this does not count towards professional standards as this is an informational update and not training.

---

Q: Good morning. What happens if one receives product that is close to expiration date?

A: If you receive product that is too close to its expiration date to use, you will need to get in contact with the warehouse and ask them to replace it. You may also contact TDA for assistance.

---

Q: How long will the school to school transfer take since in the future the process will have to be done through you?

A: TDA will strive to have transfers approved within 3 business days provided that all information is complete. If the requests are incomplete, there will be approval delays. The processing time for approval may be adjusted based on the volume of requests received by TDA.

---

Q: Do you know if the CACFP crediting of grains by ounces has been postponed?

A: USDA released a policy memo indicating that there is no new guidance yet.

---

Q: We were just given an opportunity to request free pounds. Some of the pounds available were also part of the fair share reduction. Can you explain how this works?

A: If and when TDA fills a survey request with state account pounds, CE surveys are reduced through fair share to return entitlement for later use. Free pounds are not part of the entitlement surveys and are simply excess pounds at a processor that need to be used. Because entitlement is not attached to these pounds, there is no need to do a fair share reduction.

---

Q: What if I don't have any items in the inventory?

A: If you requested USDA Foods through surveys and do not see your items in inventory, you may call TDA to determine when we anticipate a truck of a particular item to arrive at its destination. If you did not make survey requests with TDA, you will need to look for bonus opportunities, surplus items in your TDA warehouse, or request “free” pounds at a processor, when available from TDA.

---

Q: Do you have dates for the conference in May yet?

A: An invite is forthcoming from TDA to provide more conference details. The conference is scheduled for the week of May 11, 2020.

---

Q: Do you anticipate having a second round of processing during next year's orders?

A: After the first round of surveys have been ordered and the state entitlement level has been evaluated, TDA will determine if there are sufficient funds to open a second round of surveys.

---

Q: How long should we give the warehouse to replace damaged or out of date product before contacting you?

A: You should contact TDA immediately to assist with the resolution process.

---

Q: Is there anything we can do this year about receiving our yearly allotment of an item in two shipments / using the short-term shortage, we do not have storage for that quantity.

A: You may opt to transfer the product that you are unable to utilize to another CE. Please contact TDA if you wish to do so.