

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL SCHOOL

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

Lunch Program

June 21, 2021

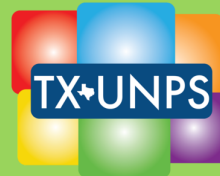
Embedded attachments with this issue

Refer to the COVID Page for Updates

Your Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) newsletter has returned, but [SquareMeals.org/CVNSLP](https://www.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.

Reminder: Update SSO & SFSP Site Application End Dates in TX-UNPS

CEs should update their SSO and SFSP site end dates in their TX-UNPS site applications. Site application information should reflect current summer operations. TDA uses data from SSO and SFSP site applications to populate the www.Summerfood.org map and the No Kid Hungry Texting Tool. 211 also uses the summer meals map to connect callers to meal sites. SSO and SFSP site applications that are classified as open sites and the site end date has not passed are displayed on the map and texting tool. The public uses these tools to identify sites that are open for children in the community. If a site is no longer serving meals, please update the end date in the TX-UNPS site application.



Policy Updates

Local Wellness Policy Extension Flexibility

USDA issued a nationwide waiver that allows NSLP/SBP Contracting Entities to complete their first triennial Local Wellness Policy assessment by **June 30, 2022**. CEs wishing to use this flexibility must notify TDA by completing this [COVID-19 Local Wellness Policy Flexibility Intake Form](#) by **June 30, 2021**.

CEs electing to use the June 30, 2022, deadline would complete a second triennial assessment by June 30, 2025. Operators that are prepared to complete their triennial assessment by the original extended date of June 30, 2021, are encouraged to do so.



Texas Farm Fresh Initiative

Registration Open for the October Farm Fresh Challenge

Traditional NSLP program operators (including those serving SSO or SFSP) during the 2021-2022 school year are encouraged to participate in the October Farm Fresh Challenge! Schools can access resources to help them meet the Eat Local, Teach Local, and Be Social parameters and earn recognition for bringing local foods to their meal program. Please visit [Squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge](https://www.squaremeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge) to learn more about the Farm Fresh Challenge and share this link with districts in your region so they can register to participate in October! Please contact FarmFresh@TexasAgriculture.gov with any questions.

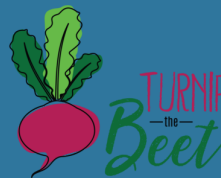


Resources and Opportunities

Announcing Turnip the Beet 2021

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

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. For more resources, including Turnip the Beet Resource Guide, Nomination Form, and deadlines, visit TDA's Turnip the Beet page [here](#).



Food Safety Series

Four Steps to Food Safety: Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill

Clean: Wash hands and surfaces often.

- Wash hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds. Tip: Sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
- Clean and sanitize food preparation surfaces, chopping boards and kitchen utensils.
- Rinse produce under running water. Wash fruits and vegetables even if you are going to peel them. If you cut unwashed produce, bacteria on the surface can get inside.
- Download the [CLEAN factsheet](#) and share with staff.

USDA Foods

TDA will reimburse CEs for delivery and storage fees paid to the state contracted warehouse for PY 2021. Through **June 30, 2021**, CEs can review the PY 2021 NSLP USDA Foods Private Storage Delivery and Storage Fees Reports which are now posted on SquareMeals [here](#).

If you believe the amount has been misreported and would like TDA to review before reimbursements are issued, please submit a PY 2021 NSLP Delivery and Private Storage Fees Inquiry form here:

<https://form.jotform.com/211476163553152>

CEs have until Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 5:00 pm to report any discrepancies to TDA. If you have any questions, please contact TDA at CommodityOperations@TexasAgriculture.gov.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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This product was funded by USDA.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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