

# Texas Department of Agriculture

## Food and Nutrition Industry Task Force Minutes July 29, 2020

1. Family Food Box Program Updates
  - a. New solicitation:
    - i. Considers last mile costs.
    - ii. Requires combination box (single box with all three components) OR three separate, small boxes (under 40lbs) with each component.
      1. Minimum of two different types of protein.
  - b. Complaints:
    - i. Distributors do not have resources to assemble boxes.
    - ii. Manufacturers do not have distribution channels for boxes.
    - iii. Food Banks do not have incentive to do assembly/distribution work with nothing to defray last mile costs.
2. Order Cancellations
  - a. 2.7% school food cancellations
    - i. Most of these are from potato industry.
    - ii. Not abnormal based on previous years' trends.
  - b. 7% household food cancellations
    - i. Most initiated by USDA
  - c. TDA reports negative entitlement balance: -\$19 million
    - i. USDA is purchasing at increased costs.
    - ii. TDA has historically overspent. This rollover contributes to current negative balance and creates limitations on how we order.
  - d. TDA will reach out to co-ops and direct ship CEs to determine prioritized items.
    - i. This partnering with all parties, in addition to looking at current month's inventory on-hand, will assist in cancellation decision making.
      1. Most of these cancellations will occur for processed items.
      2. TDA's expectation is that "brown box" items will be canceled as a last resort (only if demand shifts to the point where that is needed).
  - e. TDA will draft and disseminate communication to CEs next week.
3. Repository Information Discussion
  - a. Repository is live.
    - i. TDA Coordinator for Nutrition and Nutrition Specialists will be reviewing submissions.
      1. Resources submitted that have been reviewed and deemed appropriate will be posted to squaremeals.
      2. Jotform also online on squaremeals.
    - ii. TDA is hoping to provide resources specifically regarding:
      1. IW products for grab-and-go settings.
      2. New recipes with tried-and-true products for grab-and-go settings.

3. New packaging options.
  4. Training or instructional videos for non-congregate feeding.
- b. Please contact [vendorsupportforcovid@texasagriculture.gov](mailto:vendorsupportforcovid@texasagriculture.gov) with any questions.
4. Q&A
- a. Q: Are RAs asking the state to move trucks from one processor to another because they'd like to continue serving a product served in summer?
    - i. A: TDA is not aware of a major shift in the state's movement orders.
  - b. Q: Are there any issues with product quality as the third party breaks down bulk items down into individual servings?
    - i. A: If product is in possession of warehouse or distributor and they choose a third party copacker, the responsibility lies with the distributor and RA.
    - ii. A: If product is in possession of manufacturer and they choose third party copacker, the manufacturer will receive the finished product back to ship. The responsibility lies with the manufacturer.
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