

Texas Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Industry Task Force Minutes August 12, 2020

1. New Amendment for Farmer to Family Food Box RFP
 - a. Webinar later today regarding new amendment (1:00pm EST).
 - i. TDA has gotten feedback that some may be unable to continue participation due to combination box requirements.
 1. Provisions allow distributors to work with food banks directly to contribute last mile costs.
 2. Hope to address concerns about combining frozen, refrigerated, shelf-stable products into single box.
2. Repository Information Expanded
 - a. TDA advised being careful regarding the interpretation of the term “bulk”
 - i. Does not include raw food product.
 - ii. Was intended to allow gallon milk in place of smaller cartons.
 - iii. Still needs to be unitized.
 - iv. Nutritional requirements and meal patterns have not been waived (exceptions on case-by-case basis).
3. Task Force Discussion Items
 - a. Meeting will move from weekly to biweekly
4. Q & A
 - a. Q: Are there any updates on commodities (cancellations)?
 - i. A: TDA is not initiating cancellations. Cancellations may be prompted by distributors/processors/etc.
 - b. Q: Are there any commodities forecasted to be in short supply?
 - i. A: USDA’s ordering pricing has been extremely high. TDA has sent out communication regarding entitlement being overspent. As a result, a third round of surveys will not be offered.
 1. School side not experiencing major shortages. Household side is experiencing some shortages (proteins especially) due to a lack of adequate responses to USDA’s bids.
 - c. Q: Will we receive less product because of pricing increase?
 - i. A: USDA will still purchase needed product, but negative entitlement could roll over into next program year
 1. Market may adjust to offset.
 2. Fewer meals served this year (less food utilized) may also offset.
 - d. Q: Update of products being placed on hold?
 - i. A: Manufacturers are working hard to downsize SKUs but offer adequate substitutions and options.
 1. Co-ops are sending out information regarding discontinued/held items and their substitutions.
 - a. Keri of Multi-region houses this information on their “members tab,” but would be happy to share that documentation with the task force.
 - b. Co-op Coordinators Meeting scheduled for 08.13.2020 at 3pm CST to discuss further.