

Texas Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Industry Task Force Minutes November 18, 2020

1. Food Bank Update/ CFAP Availability
 - a. Some food banks have received verbal agreements for a specified number of weekly truckloads from the CFAP.
 - i. Food banks expect to get their first loads later this week
 - ii. Food banks indicate that it is hard to report on how well CFAP it is working without receiving the first load
 - b. Other food banks report that process is not working well
 - i. Is AMS aware of food bank feedback?
2. Distributor Updates – Food Bank Purchases/New Products
 - a. Food Banks are closely monitoring donations before resorting to purchasing food.
 - i. Feeding America struggling with cancellations of TEFAP items
 1. Also indicate issues with the truck to trunk model for CFAP
 - ii. Purchasing to extend over several months
 1. Foreseeing inventory issues in the spring
 - iii. Lead times for retail purchases continue to be long
 1. Cannot submit special orders for holidays, earliest arrival in January
3. Ordering Update
 - a. NSLP
 - i. TDA continues to receive requests for processor cancellations
 1. Largely driven by USDA requests
 2. TDA is working with processors and co-ops to adjust fair share reductions to reduce negative impact to districts
 - a. Concern brought forward about short turn-around time for co-op to approve fair share reductions
 - i. TDA reports that some deadlines are given by USDA
 - ii. TDA's ordering team will address urgency of approvals that TDA can control.
 3. TDA is also assessing processor inventory to evaluate levels.
 - b. Household Programs
 - i. TDA is waiting on USDA guidance on CARES and FFCRA funding. TDA will provide contracting entities updated balances when available.
4. Update on Single Bank Concept/Meetings
 - a. TDA is still in the discussion/research phase
 - b. USDA Foods Ordering webinar will be held in December
 - c. Any feedback/concern about potential single bank model?
 - i. Jodi is working with Jose to outline processes and regulations that may address any concerns
5. Discussion on RFP/Bids-Plans for adjustments
 - a. Co-ops
 - i. In process of completing commodity bid renewals - doing due diligence but estimating is "best guess" with current uncertainties in menu offerings.
 - b. Paper Goods
 - i. Continuing to have issues getting products
 1. Cannot meet demand (specifically on trays)

- a. Catching up on hinged lid containers
 - ii. Pre-Covid saw 98-99% satisfaction for demand
 - iii. Cost – high cost on personal protection
 - iv. Volume – some distributors have set minimums of product, co-ops also setting controls
 - c. Manufacturers
 - i. No discussion about mass adjustments for next school year
 - 1. “Do not bid list” no larger than it is any other year
 - 2. New products are still underway for the Winter and Fall
 - 3. Market conditions are affecting pricing, but no gouging or huge increases
 - ii. Distributors indicate concerns that manufacturers will not permit automatic renewal of bids
 - iii. Optimization letter
 - 1. Brought back many items for 20-21 school year
 - 2. Goal is to provide products that have ample supply
 - 3. Forecastings will be critical
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