

Texas Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Task Force Webinar February 24, 2021

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1. State Warehouse RFP Status
 - a. Original deadline for bids was 2/17/21. Deadline has now been extended.
2. Winter Storm Uri Update
 - a. Severe winter weather information/flexibilities were posted to squaremeals.
 - b. TDA extended deadlines for:
 - i. Warehouse RFP Bids. New deadline is 02/24/21 at 3:00pm CST.
 1. Farm to School surveys delayed because these are tied to warehouse delivery schedule. Warehouses need to be awarded before FTS surveys are set up.
 - ii. FSMC RFP Solicitations.
 - iii. Periodic, annual, and processing surveys. New deadline is 03/05/21.
 - c. All Texas counties were in presidentially declared emergency.
 - i. 300 warming shelters opened.
 1. TDA received single request for utilization of USDA Foods in shelter. This was never processed as shelter did not open in time serve people in disaster.
 - ii. FEMA moved to hotel room and “congregate” feeding model.
 - iii. TDA sent out communication that CEs acting as shelters need to turn in documentation and reporting to TDA so that USDA can replace utilized food.
 - iv. TDA sent out communication informing that losses of USDA Foods due to weather complications would need to be filed on the CE’s insurance claim. This does not come through TDA and USDA will not replace.
 1. CEs will likely communicate losses to distributors as their forecasts will change.
 2. Industry can release a survey to assess losses if they wish.
 3. If insurance will not replace USDA Food losses, FEMA may be of assistance.
 - v. TDA submitted CFSP retroactive distribution waiver renewal.
 1. New waiver includes clause allowing retroactive distribution due to inclement weather.
3. Ordering/Inventory Updates
 - a. SY 20-21
 - i. NSLP
 1. 9% of orders are still awaiting USDA action.
 - a. Majority are for May-June delivery periods.
 2. TDA ordering team is working diligently to update TX UNPS process divergent piece to reallocate pounds (due to cancellations).
 - ii. DOD
 1. TDA was able to allot an additional \$6.1 million to DOD.
 - a. CEs have been informed. Many have requested additional DOD funding from TDA.
 - iii. Household

1. \$375,000 left in uncommitted CARES food funding
 - a. Must be committed by 03/19/21.
 2. TEFAP bonus offerings
 - a. Newest offering includes 100 trucks of chicken, cheese, cherries, grapes, and dry milk.
 3. TEFAP cancellations
 - a. Trucks of peanut butter, eggs, and potatoes cancelled due to USDA acquisition issues.
 - b. SY 21-22
 - i. As stated previously:
 1. Periodic, annual, and processing surveys have been pushed back to 03/05/21.
 2. Farm to school surveys have been delayed.
4. Inventory Redistribution Plans
 - a. USDA is facilitating mass cancellations.
 - b. TDA reports several processor-facilitated cancellations due to exceeding the federal 6-month inventory threshold.
 - c. TDA will pool excess inventory at processor level at end of school year. TDA will redistribute for maximum utilization so USDA does not sweep at national level.
 - i. Communication has gone out to processors, co-ops, and schools.
5. Impact of Winter Storm on Manufacturers/Distributors
 - a. Majority of manufacturers/distributors report interruptions to both work (especially night shift) and transportation schedules.
 - i. All say that transportation schedules have resumed as normal.
 - ii. Some are reporting shortages due to the storm.
 - iii. Some are reporting shortages due to other factors.
 - iv. Some say that impact was minimal while others say that it is too early to tell.
6. Q & A
 - a. Q: How will we be prepared for the next disaster?
 - i. A: The task force is interested in steering (or creating a commission to steer) a more formal emergency response/program/exercise/checklist.
 - ii. TDA does have a disaster response team, but acknowledges need at CE level.
 - b. Q: If we served grab and go meals for a week prior to the winter storm shut-down, can we still claim those meals although we had no school?
 - i. Yes