

# Local Food for Schools

March 19, 2025

## Office Hours

*Tiffany Lankford, Nutrition Specialist*

*Christie Beaulieu, Nutrition Grants Specialist*

*Brendan Sweeney- Grants Specialist*



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

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Updated 3/21/2025  
[www.SquareMeals.org](http://www.SquareMeals.org)



Food and Nutrition Division  
Nutrition Assistance Programs

# Meeting Agenda

01

**Updates &  
Announcements**

02

**Reimbursements**

03

**Success Stories**

04

**Questions**

# Announcements



Jefferson ISD– McCurry Farms

# USDA-LFSCC

**No additional funding will be awarded to state agencies  
for the Local Food for Schools grant**

# Healthy Meal Incentives (HMI)



## HMI Recognition Awards

- 7 Categories – Awarded on rolling basis
- **Applications close June 30, 2025**
- Visit [HMI Homepage: healthymealsincentives.org](http://HMI Homepage: healthymealsincentives.org)
- [www.squaremeals.org/HMI](http://www.squaremeals.org/HMI)

Consider the Innovation in Nutrition Education since 1 of the 2 requirements are met with LFS participation!

**Breakfast Trailblazer**

**Lunch Trailblazer**

**Innovative School Lunch Makeover**

**Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals**

**Small and/or Rural Breakfast Trailblazer**

**Small and/or Rural Lunch Trailblazer**

**Innovation in Nutrition Education ★**

# Grant Updates



Lake Travis ISD-Carrots  
via Troisi Farms

# LFS Resources

## LFS Resources on SquareMeals

- [www.squaremeals.org/LFS](http://www.squaremeals.org/LFS)

## LFS Vendor Resource List

- *Updated list of vendors used by grant recipients is posted on our website. It is not required to use these vendors; if interested in pursuing procurement from any of the vendors listed, follow federal, state, and local regulations*

## Grantee Fund amount and reimbursement

- *List of grantees and the amount awarded as well as how much reimbursement requested to date*



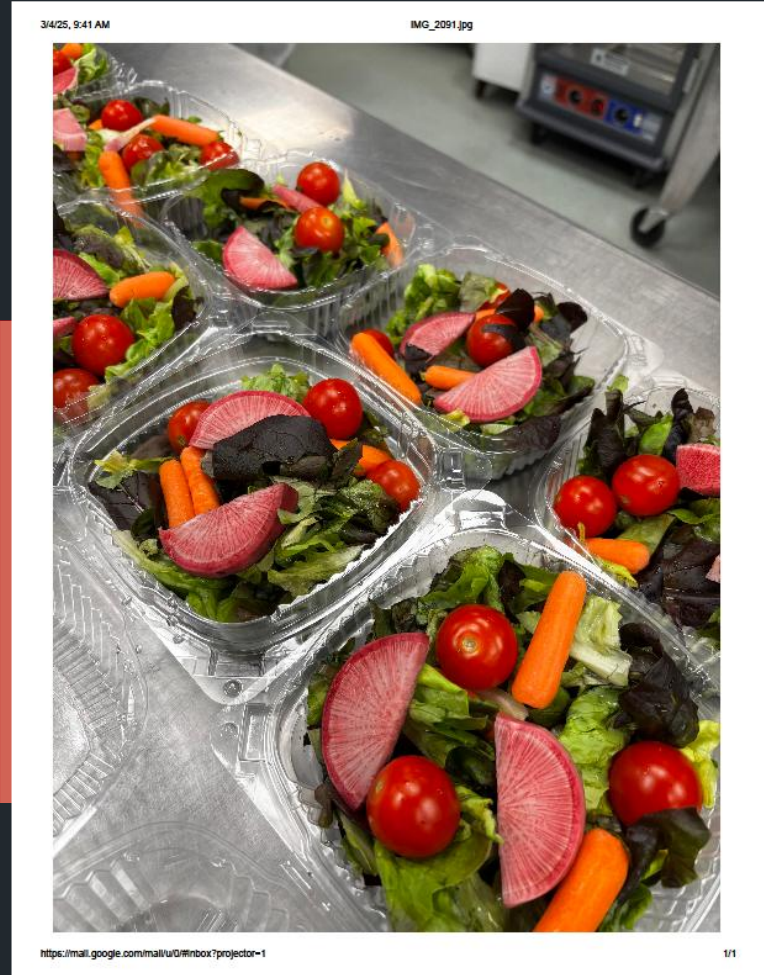
# Farm Fresh Network



- Searchable Map
- Find local farmers, ranchers, and distributors in your area



# Reimbursements



Lexington ISD – Watermelon Radish and Lettuce  
via Common Market

# Reimbursements

- Reimbursed \$12,617,109.58 of \$22,311,051
- 56% of total funds reimbursed with a few weeks remaining
- Pending \$4 million

# Reimbursement Updates

## Important Deadlines

1. Last day to make LFS purchases – **March 31, 2025**
2. Last day to submit LFS reimbursement requests – **May 9, 2025**

## Notifications

- Email approval will be sent when Finance approves, the link to the Smartsheet won't allow you access.
- Reimbursement should be received within 60 days of Finance approval

## Video Training on Reimbursement Process

- Available on webpage under LFS Resources
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9Odue7mrRI>



# Best Practices

- **Submit the Payment Request Form in excel spreadsheet**
- **Consolidate reimbursement requests if it's the same vendor**
- **Bank statements aren't required**
- **Submit photos and recipes**
- **Provide proof that the vendor has local products**
- **For payment information check out: **Comptroller's Search State Payments Issued website****

# Success Stories



Whitewright ISD– Walnut Creek Farms

"I just wanted to start out by saying that this program has truly been a huge blessing. It has allowed us to strengthen our ties to our community, while also providing the kids at school with a really good lunch! We started providing ground beef for a couple of schools last year, and have continued providing monthly deliveries of ground beef since. Due in large part to the LFS grant I was able to fully commit myself to our ranch and our beef company when I began doing it full time around the beginning of last year.- Will Davis; Davis 20 Beef

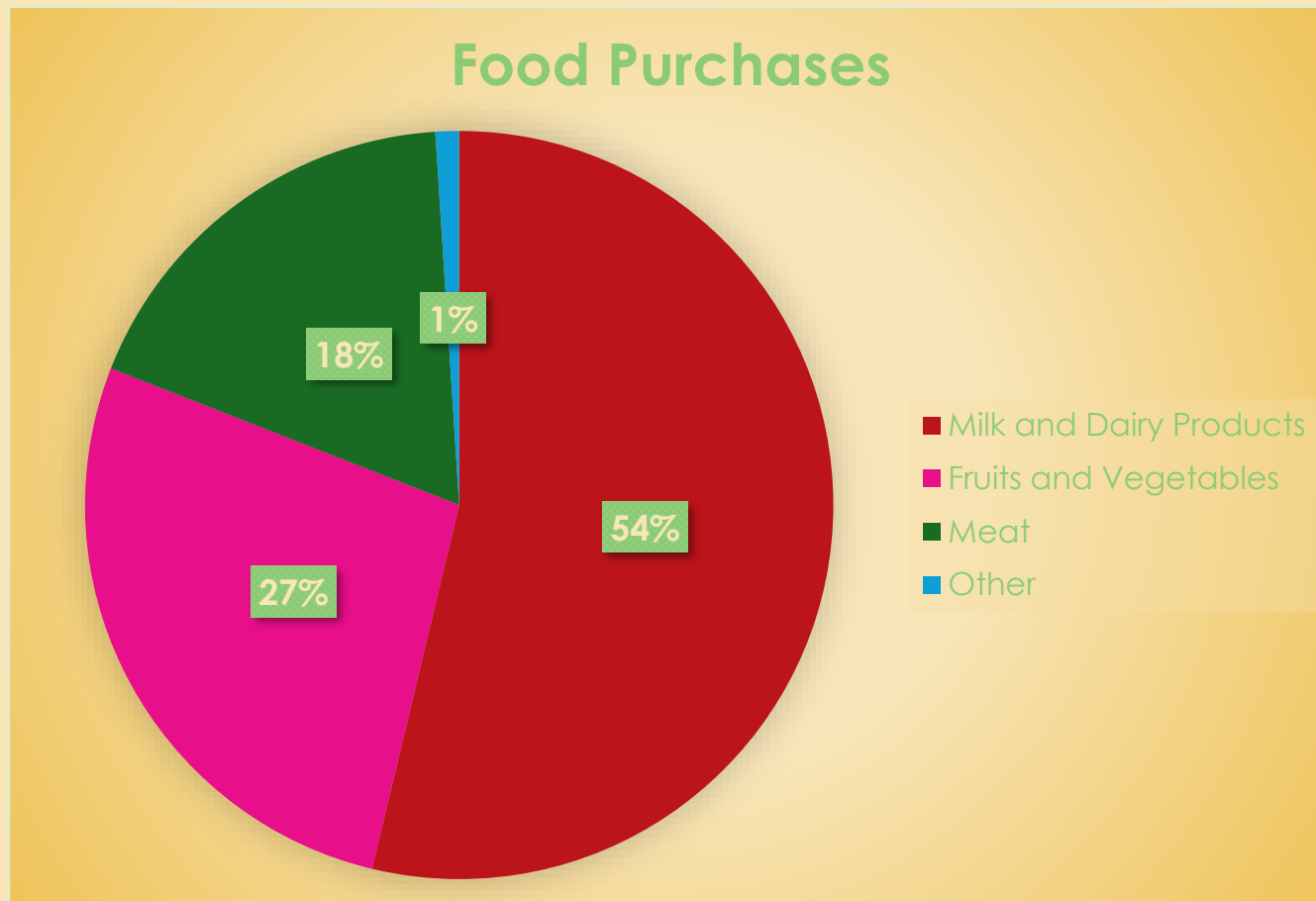
"We are so impressed with the quality and multiple choices of fruit and vegetables. My students are now looking forward to what new and different thing they are going to get. It is such a blessing to be involved in this. We are not only teaching our kiddos what good farm fresh food is but helping out our fellow Texan Farmers. As soon as I standardize my recipe, we are having what we have named Mom's Sunday Roast."- Jefferson ISD purchased from Walnut Creek Farms



"The students were surprised to have fresh shrimp on the menu. They were excited to have it!"  
Bridge City ISD- purchased shrimp from Yellow Rose Meat Market

# Results

- **94% of LFS grantees will continue purchasing from local producers after LFS ends**
- **Most purchased items: Milk and Dairy Products, Fruits and Vegetables, Meat, and Other**



# Questions?



Katy ISD-Labatt



# Contact Us



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Christie Beaulieu, Nutrition Grant Specialist

Brendan Sweeney- Grant Specialist

Portal: [Reimbursement Form](#)

TDA LFS Website: [www.squaremeals.org/LFS](http://www.squaremeals.org/LFS)



Farm Fresh Network: [www.squaremeals.org/FarmFreshNetwork](http://www.squaremeals.org/FarmFreshNetwork)

Comptroller Vendor List: <https://mycpa.cpa.state.tx.us/tpasscdblsearch/>

Food and Nutrition: [www.SquareMeals.org](http://www.SquareMeals.org)



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1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
- 2. fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- 3. email:**  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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