

# USDA Foods Challenge 2023

Earn your Prime Player title by participating in the challenge!

TDA is excited to announce the first USDA Foods Challenge aimed at improving CE's use of entitlement through the USDA Foods program.



**Click on the badge to the left to join!**

Complete the steps on the following page. Then click on the badge to fill out the attestation form.

**Challenge starts January and ends in March.**

**Deadline to register is January 31<sup>st</sup>**



**Prime Players will have received 95% of their allocated entitlement and will be awarded with:**

- Letter from Commissioner Sid Miller
- Letter from the TDA Assistant Commissioner Lena Wilson
- Certificate of Completion
- PowerPoint with talking points to present at school board meetings
- Digital marketing materials



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

Fraud Hotline: 1-866-5-FRAUD-4 or 1-866-537-2834 | P.O. Box 12847 | Austin, TX 78711  
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Food and Nutrition Division  
Commodity Supplemental Food Program



Updated 12/16/2022  
www.SquareMeals.org



# Steps to Complete the Challenge for SY22-23:

## 1. Review your current entitlement

Determine what you have left to use in SY 22-23 by visiting the Weekly Commodity Bulletin in TX-UNPS.

Click on this [link](#) to see usage percentage for further processing. Click on this link to see what is in the [Warehouse](#). For a how-to on moving entitlement from processing to brown box click here to view the how-to on SquareMeals.

## 2. Can you use surplus

Do you have extra entitlement? Go into TX-UNPS and view reports. See if there are foods in surplus you can bring in and incorporate into your menus.

## 3. Submit the participation attestation form by clicking [here](#) or found on the first page

Fill out the attestation after completing steps 1 & 2. TDA will use reports to determine if participants meet the challenge parameters: receive 95% of the allocated entitlement

## 4. Complete the End-of-Challenge survey that will be sent May 1, 2023

Look out for the post-survey to share recipes and photos, best practices and strategies. This is the final step to meet all the requirements to earn the title of Prime Player!



### Questions?

Please email:

[nutrition@texasagriculture.gov](mailto:nutrition@texasagriculture.gov)



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# Steps to Complete the Challenge for SY23-24:



## Questions?

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### 1. Watch the [training video](#) to help you understand your contract package

Ensure you have the foundational knowledge of understanding your contract package in TX-UNPS by watching the hour-long training video.

### 2. Review the [“Bang for Your Buck”](#) resource

Review the tips found in the resource to ensure that you are fully utilizing your entitlement

### 3. Determine how much regular USDA Foods aka brown box can be used in your menus

Determine if your menu can incorporate regular USDA Foods. Regular USDA Foods or brown box items need prep and recipes to utilize them. The Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN)'s [Recipe Box](#) has student approved, standardized recipes.

### 4. Use commodity calculators provided by processors to determine how much entitlement is needed for processing or if in a coop use ProcessorLink pre-order module

Determine how much to send to processors using their [commodity calculators](#).

### 5. Submit the participation attestation form by clicking [here](#)

Fill out the attestation after completing steps 1-4. TDA will use reports to determine if participants meet the challenge parameters.

### 6. Complete the End-of-Challenge survey that will be sent May 1, 2023

Look out for the post-survey to collect recipes and photos, best practices and strategies to be shared. This is the final step to meet all the requirements to earn the title of Prime Player!



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