

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CHILD AND ADULT CARE

3E'S OF HEALTHY LIVING
EDUCATION, EXERCISE AND EATING RIGHT

Food Program

September 2024 Monthly Newsletter

Pledge for the Farm Fresh Challenge now!

October is coming fast and the time to pledge to join TDA for the Farm Fresh Challenge is now. All NSLP and CACFP operators are encouraged to Serve Local foods, Teach about Local agriculture, and Share which Local foods are being served on social media. We have new resources to help you achieve whichever tier you decide to strive for this year. Find the Success Guide, Word Games, new flashcards, and a tracking tool on SquareMeals.org/FarmFreshChallenge/Resources.

The pledge form will be open until October 30, but remember to pledge by September 13th to receive promotional materials like "We Serve Local" buttons for staff, "Locally Grown" clings for your serving line, or "I Tried Local" stickers for your students. Let's make 2024 the most successful Farm Fresh Challenge year ever! [Pledge now!](#)

TANS Update

As announced at MegaCon 2024, the Texas Department of Agriculture is happy to share we will all be transitioning from the Texas Unified Nutrition Program System (TXUNPS) to a new system in program year 2026 – the Texas Automated Nutrition System (TANS)! For the past decade, TXUNPS has served TDA's nutrition programs as a single integrated web-based application, but the time has come to upgrade. System users from the state, Education Service Centers (ESCs), and sponsoring organizations will soon begin using TANS to support the same nutrition programs through application process, claims, compliance, and more.

You may be asking, "Why do we need to change systems?" Well, the main

challenges behind the change is that TXUNPS is a highly customized system managed by a vendor that runs on older technology so our ability to adjust or enhance the system is very limited and the changes that can be made are completed very slowly. These obstacles do not support operational efficiency or effective administration of the programs, so TDA decided to find an alternative to TXUNPS.

Development on TANS is already underway, so you can expect a training schedule and more very soon. Bookmark, subscribe, and [stay tuned](#) to make sure you're ready to dive into the exciting new system!

[USDA Offers Additional Guidance and Best Practices for Obtaining Racial/Ethnic Data](#)

On Monday, August 26, 2024, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released memorandum [CACFP 12-2024, SFSP 16-2024](#), Questions and Answers Related to CACFP 11-2021, SFSP 07-2021, Collection of Race and Ethnicity Data by Visual Observation and Identification in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program – Policy Rescission -Set 2.

[Registration Now Open! Webinar: Choose Yogurt That Is Lower in Added Sugars](#)

On Thursday, September 19, 2024, USDA's Team Nutrition initiative will present a CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays webinar on “Choose Yogurt That Is Lower in Added Sugars in the CACFP.” Registration for this free webinar is now available.

- 1-1:30 p.m. CDT English Webinar: Click [here](#) to register
- 2-2:30 p.m. CDT Spanish Webinar: Click [here](#) to register

Registration links are also available [here](#). Both webinars will be recorded and made available at a later date. All who register for the webinar will receive an email once the recording is available.

[Revised Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet Series in English](#)

The Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheet series has been revised to reflect the changes with the Final Rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs tip sheet series consists of seven tip sheets covering the five meal components: fruits, vegetables, meats/meat alternates, fluid milk, and grains (three separate tip sheets). The revised versions introduce the menu-planning flexibilities beginning July 1, 2024 and changes that will be implemented in the coming school years in a quick-reference format. Access the entire [tip sheet series](#) today in English! The Spanish series will be available online in September and print copies of both the Spanish and English tip sheets will be available at a later date!



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COMMISSIONER SID MILLER



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