



Food and Nutrition Division Food Distribution Program

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

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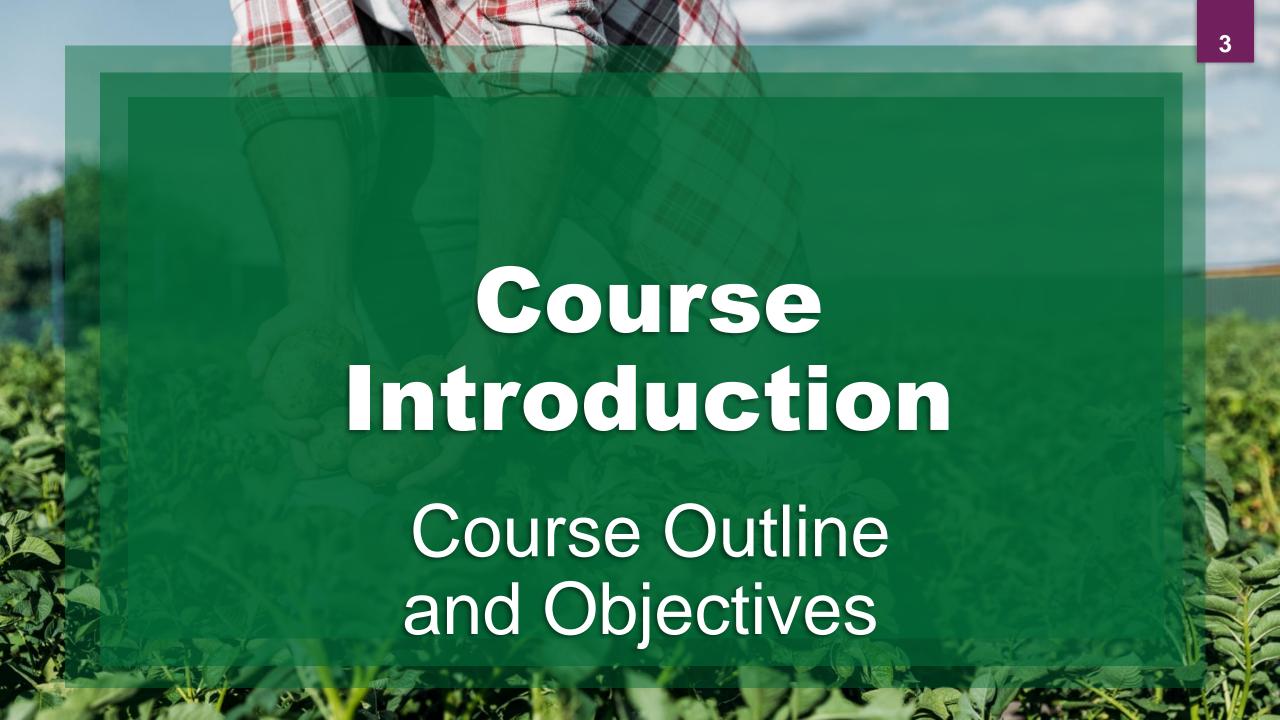
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Acknowledgement Statement

You understand and acknowledge that:

- The training you are about to take does not cover the entire scope of the program; and that
- You are responsible for knowing and understanding all handbooks, manuals, alerts, notices, and guidance, as well as any other forms of communication that provide further guidance, clarification, or instruction on operating the program.





Forecasting Overview
Understanding forecasting purpose, benefits, and steps

Pre-Planning

Analyzing cycle menus and observing trends

Food Production Records
Analyze historical data and trends

Inventory Reports

Analyze inventory to forecast quantities and costs

Maximizing Entitlement
Tools and strategies

Request USDA Foods
Putting it all together

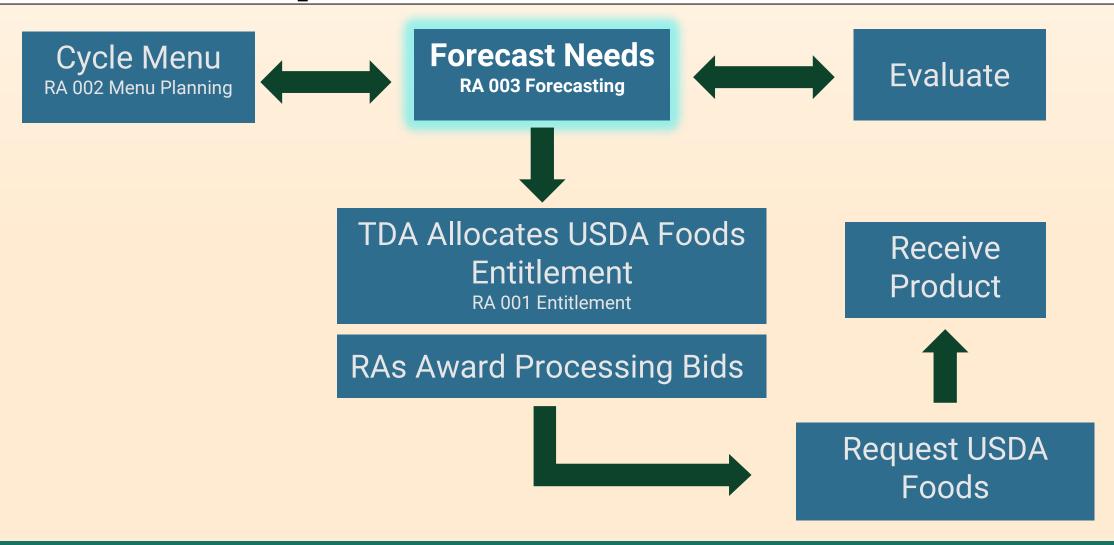
Course Objectives and Outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify and understand the steps in forecasting and procurement timeline
- Understand how to conduct needs analysis and calculate inventory of USDA Foods
- Understand how to use Food Production Records to assist in forecasting
- Identify tools and strategies that help maximize USDA entitlement dollars



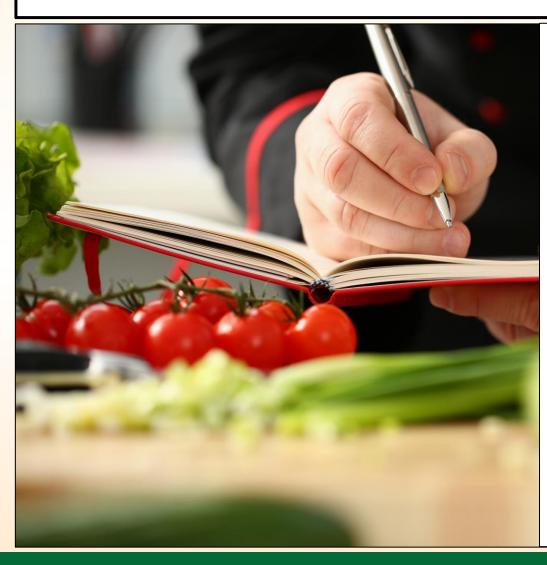
Steps of Procurement





What is Forecasting?

Forecasting Is...



Planning.

The process of evaluating resources, projecting expenses, and determining needs. Involves estimating goods, works, and services needed.

What does that look like?

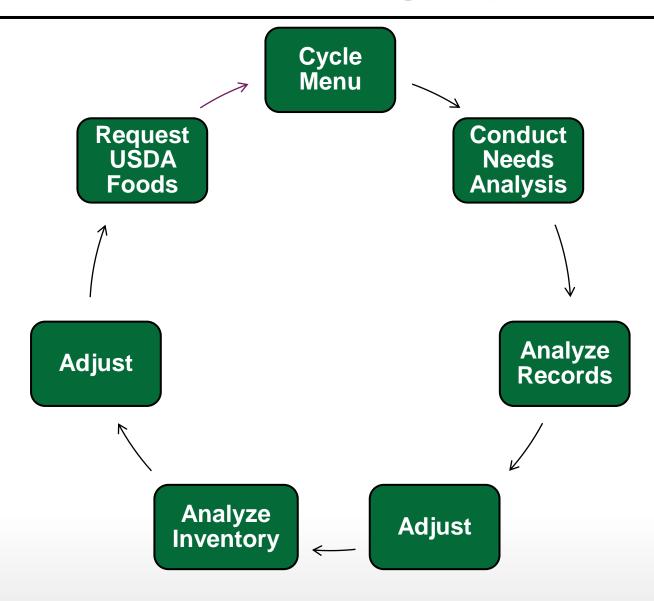
- □ Analyzing current and historical data in Food Production Records to determine future trends.
- □ Making predictions/estimates based on report analysis for coming year.
- ☐ Assessing needs for procurement.

What are the benefits of the forecasting process?

Purpose and Benefits:



Forecasting Cycle



Forecasting Steps

STEP	WHAT I NEED TO KNOW	HOW I DETERMINE IT	ADJUSTMENTS
1	What food to order?	Create Cycle Menu	
2	What will students eat?	Conduct Needs Analysis	Adjust Food List/Menu
3	How much did they eat?	Analyze Food Production Records	Adjust Menu Frequency
4	How much have I used & how much do I have left?	Analyze Inventory Reports	Adjust Quantities
5	How much does it cost?	Maximize Entitlement	Adjust Menu/Quantities
6	Request USDA FOODS!	WBSCM & FFAVORS	





Creating Cycle Menus



□ Dissect Menu

 Variety, Equipment, Labor, Student Interest, Available Commodities

☐ Observe Trends

- Review Food Production Records
- Review Point of Sales Counts

☐ Control Costs

- Available Revenue
- USDA Reimbursement
- Non-Food Costs
- □ Budget

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Needs Analysis Steps



- a) Past Activity
- b) Current Activity
- c) Future Planning



Step 2a. Analyze Past Menu Surveys



Menu Surveys

- □Gather student feedback:
 - Student Surveys
 - Taste Tests
 - Comment Cards
 - Focus Groups
- □Use feedback numbers to adjust items ordered and quantity ordered.



Resources Under NSLP

Meal Appeal for School Nutrition Programs

Meal Appeal Initiative for National School Lunch Pro

information and resources that provide child nutrition professionals inst

Meal Appeal Under NSLP

If you would like to share quick tips, ideas or resources for how to boost meal appeal, please email MealAppeal@TexasAgriculture.gov

GRAB&GO

20 Grab and Go Recipes from Culinary Institute of Child Nutrition (CICN) to add to you NSLP, SBP, and ummer menus. Click here or the nage to the right to access!

NEW Meal Appeal Training!

he training provides more meal appear tips for school meals to be used with the Meal Appeal Toolkit below Click here to access!

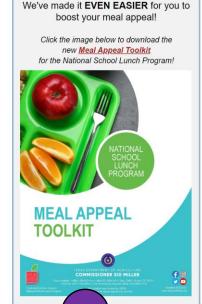
TDA's USDA Foods Recipe Suggestion Book

This recipe book contains standardized recipes for black eyed peas, chickpeas, pepper and onion mix, and kidney beans for NSLP, SBP, and SFSP menus.

Download the Top 10 Easy Wins to boost your meal appeal for NSLP lunches







Conduct Needs Analysis

Step 2a. Analyze Past Records

Food Production Records

- ☐ Use to track:
 - Total daily participation
 - Specific food items sold
 - •Number of reimbursable meals and a la carte sales each day
- ☐ Guides number of servings should be prepared next time same menu from cycle is served



Step 2a. Analyze Past Pricing/Availability



Product Pricing and Availability

- ☐ Analyze which items were:
 - More cost effective
 - Less cost effective
 - Unavailable
- □ Adjust order quantities, make substitutions based on analysis



Analysis

Step 2b. Analyze Current Year Activity

Construction Impacts

Will construction impact the quantity of materials ordered due to impacts on:

- ☐ Storage Capabilities
- ☐ Equipment Access
- □ Food Preparation

Student Enrollment

Use historical records to:

- ☐ Forecast amount of material needed.
- ☐ Has enrollment increased or decreased?
- Adjust order quantity based on current student enrollment.

Special Provisions

Analyze Special Provisions

- ☐ Will any schools implement special provisions?
- ☐ How will provisions impact quantities? (may increase)

Active Vendor Contract

Consider Active Vendor Contracts

How will active vendor contracts impact materials ordered?

2

Conduct Needs Analysis

Step 2c. Future Planning

Planned Renovations

Analyze how future construction will impact the quantity of materials ordered due to:

- □ Storage Capabilities
- ☐ Equipment Access
- □ Food Preparation

Campus Closures and Consolidation

Consider how closures and consolidations will impact procurement

☐ How will enrollment impact ordering quantities and/or materials?

Entitlement Funding Changes

Analyze Changes in Entitlement Dollars

- ☐ Has entitlement increased or decreased?
- ☐ How will changes impact materials ordered or method of procurement?



Step 3: Analyze Food Production Records

Cycle Menu Conduct Needs Analysis

Analyze Records

-

Analyze Inventory

Maximize

Request USDA Foods

Food Production Records

☐ Required daily document demonstrating meals served and claimed ☐ Keep complete and accurate Food Production Records including: □ Menus ☐ Food Substitutions ☐ Meal Pattern Contribution Documentation ☐ Must include required elements on TDA Food **Production Record Template**

> Analyze Food Production Records

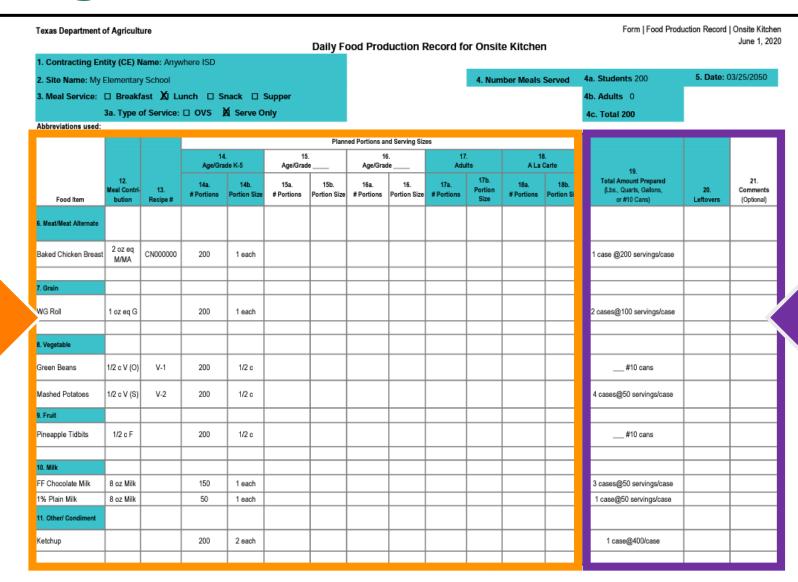
Analyzing Food Production Records

Food production records should be used as a management tool to:

- □ Determine future trends
- □ Adjust preparation amounts
- ☐ Adjust amount of material ordered in the future based on historical usage



Using Food Production Records





Prepared Section



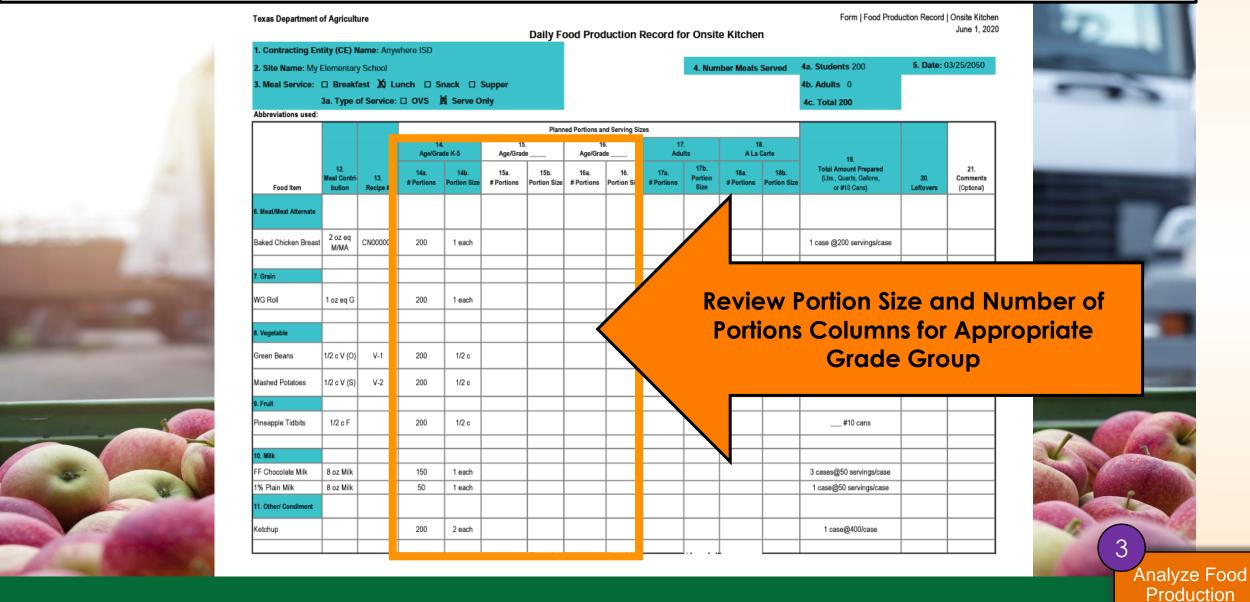
Analyze Food Production Records

Planning

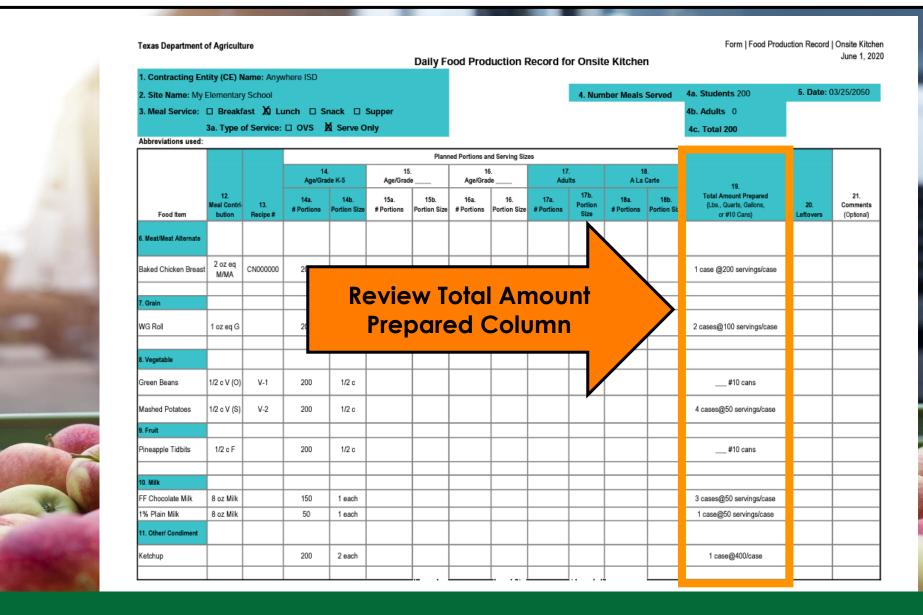
Section

Records

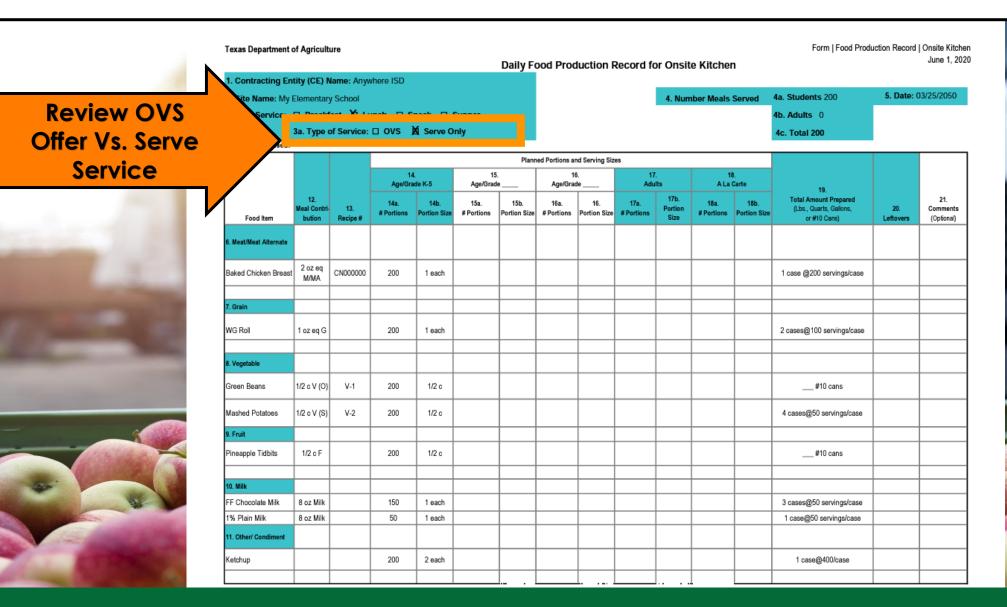
Food Production Record: Portion Sizes



Food Production Record: Amount Prepared



Food Production Record: OVS





Offer vs.
Serve



Offer vs. Serve: What Kids Want



- Allows students to decline some foods offered and select foods they prefer eating.
- Applies to menu planning and reimbursable meals
- Reduces potential for waste
- Lowers overall food cost

Analyzing Offer vs. Serve to Forecast



Analyze servings at each meal to estimate future servings needed.

Example:

- You won't serve 100 servings of every item offered.
- You might serve 100 servings of hamburgers; 60 servings of corn, 50 apples etc.

Use these numbers to guide future orders,

Step 4: Analyze Inventory Reports

Cycle Menu Conduct Needs Analysis

Analyze Records

-

Analyze Inventory

Maximize

Request USDA Foods



Weekly:

Set a reminder to track inventory and entitlement balances to assess future needs and buying power.

Check FFAVORS
(Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Order Receipt System)
to review DoD and Local Grown (Farm to School)
inventory.



Tracking USDA Foods: Processing Inventory Management



Monthly:



Review USDA Food Pounds that are with processor by:



Viewing current inventory balance through K12 or ProcLink tracking systems



In-house tracking systems

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Distributor Tracking Systems

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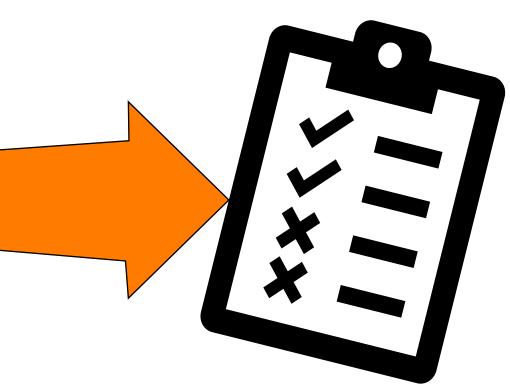
Analyze Inventory Reports

Actual Monthly Food Counts to Forecast 37

Analyze Counts Of:

- Beginning inventory of purchased and **USDA** Foods
- ☐ Food purchased during month and USDA foods value received
- ☐ End of month inventory of purchased and USDA Foods

Adjust future order quantities based on inventory counts



Step 5: Maximizing Entitlement

Cycle Menu Conduct Needs Analysis

-

Analyze Records Analyze Inventory

Maximize ___

Actual Monthly Food Cost to Forecast



Beginning inventory of purchased and USDA Foods



Food purchased during month and USDA foods value received

End of month inventory of purchased and USDA Foods



Food Costs for Month

5

Determine Cost-Effectiveness

- ☐ Gather items needed to complete the Cost Analysis Worksheet
- ☐ Follow Cost Analysis Checklist
- ☐ Consider following Best Practice Guidance in comments

DOCUMENT GATHERING CHECKLIST FOR COST ANALYSIS REGULAR/BROWN BOX ITEMS

Use this checklist as a guide for the documents/data you will need to complete this cost analysis tool for calculating the comparison of Regular/Brown Box items and commercially equivalent purchased products. Having everything on hand before you begin spreadsheet entries will assure you have all data required to conduct an accurate analysis.

REGULAR (BROWN BOX) USDA FOODS INFORMATION

- ☐ List of USDA Foods Brown box items used in your operation
 - Include WBSCM # and product descriptions
 - USDA foods case value
- Found in TX-UNPS "Annual Monthly Survey"
- Warehouse storage and delivery fees charged for these products (access current fees at link below)
 - https://squaremeals.org/Programs/FoodDistributionProgramforCNPrograms/TDAContractedWarehouses.aspx

COMMERCIAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

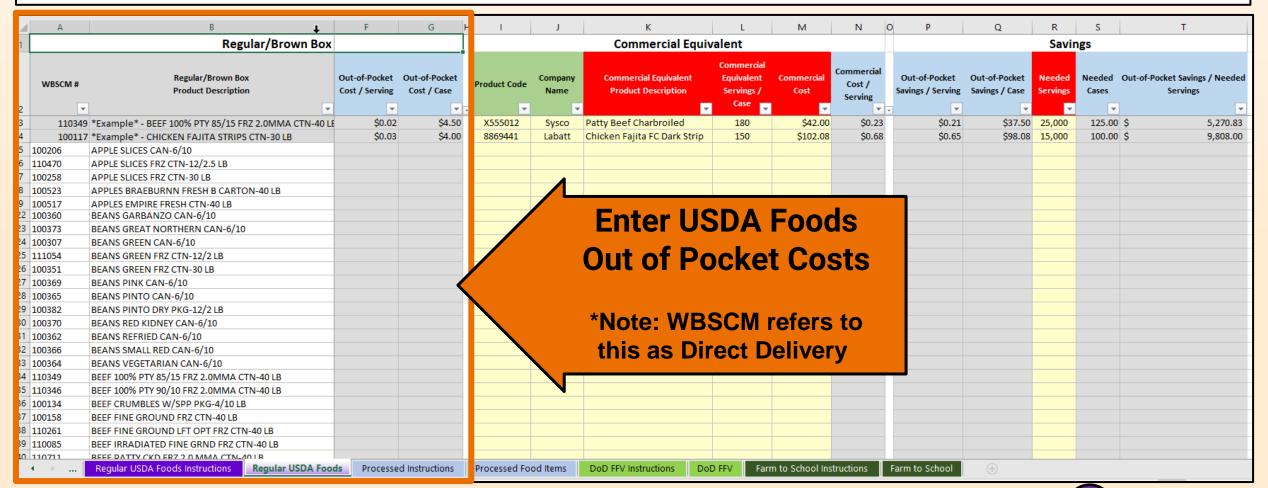
- □ Commercial equivalent product descriptions
- □ Total servings "per case" for commercial equivalent products
- $\ \square$ Bid pricing for commercial equivalent products
 - · This pricing should include all distribution fees currently assessed for the products
 - · Past delivery invoices are the best source for this information
 - Bid quotes are another source for this information
- ☐ The estimated number of servings needed for the cost comparison.
 - Users can enter comparisons for singular purchases or input servings needed on an annual basis.

BEST PRACTICES

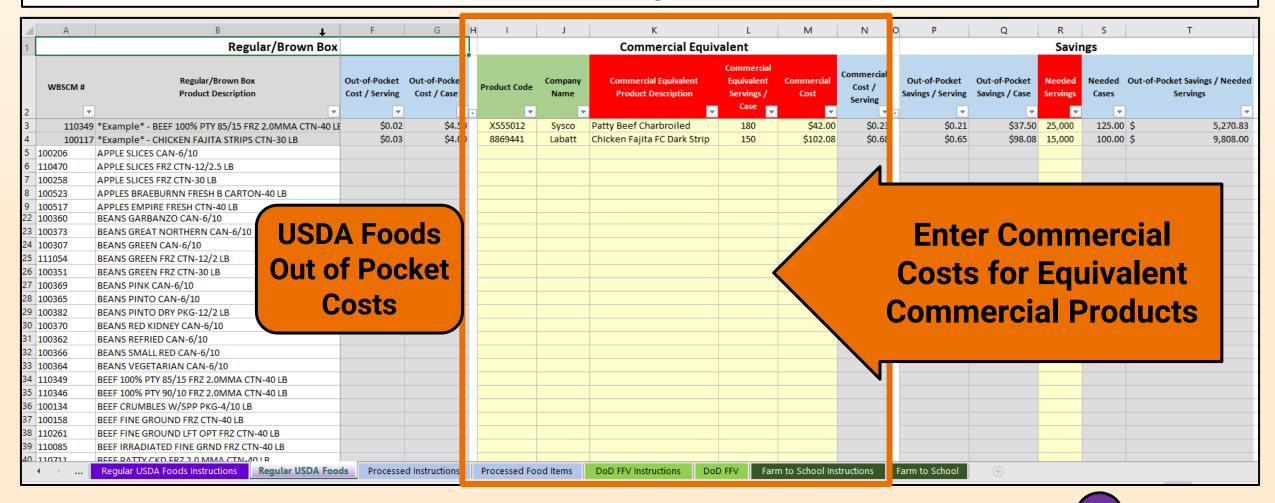
- Gathering data needed before beginning work in spreadsheet decreases the need to access multiple data points while doing entry work
- Set aside enough time to complete your data entry without interruptions
- ☐ Reference usage reports to determine accurate case counts needed for service of each individual item.
- Assure pricing used is accurate and up to date
- ☐ Calculate any delivery and service fees before beginning data entry
- □ Compare products that have the same menu uses and component contributions
- Be aware of which columns require data entry
- □ Review entries for accuracy
- ☐ Utilize the "instructions" tabs of the worksheet to cross check data needed

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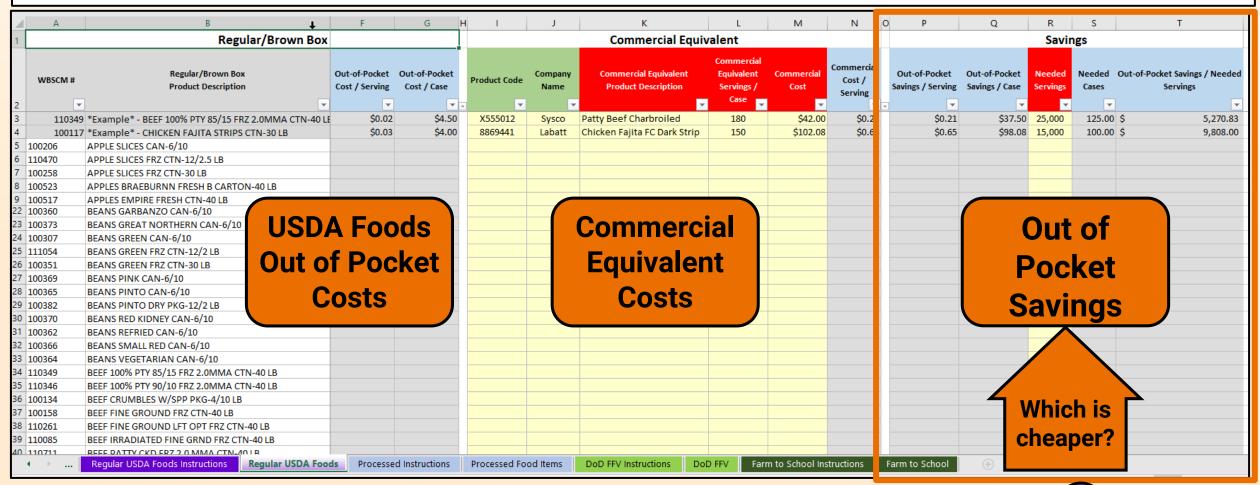
USDA Cost Analysis Worksheet



USDA Cost Analysis Worksheet



USDA Cost Analysis Worksheet

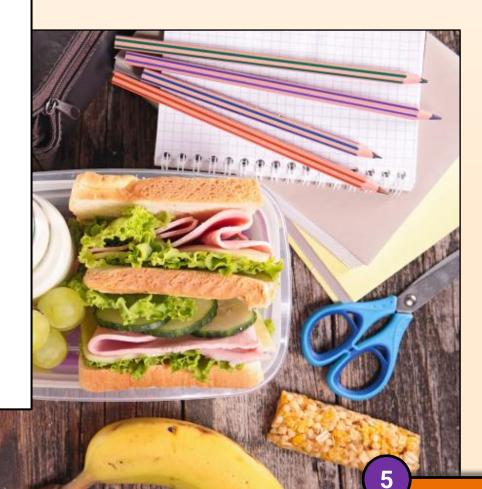


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Maximize Entitlement

Utilize Bonus Opportunities

- ☐ RAs may request as many bonus foods as it can use without waste
- ☐ TDA notifies eligible RAs when bonus foods become available
- Not charged against an RAs food entitlement amount



What is the most important forecasting step?

Step 6: Request USDA Foods!

Cycle Menu Conduct Needs Analysis

Analyze Records

Analyze Inventory

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Maximize

Putting It All Together: Prepare for Requisitions



- Cycle Menu of...
- Most Cost Effective...
- Foods Students Will Eat...
- Frequency They Will Eat It...
- Count of Inventory On Hand.

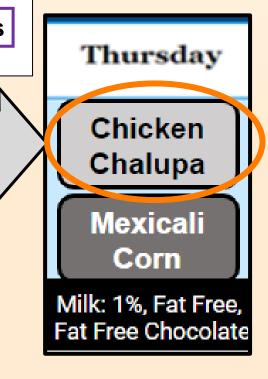


Putting It All Together: Prep for Requisitions Calculate Recipe Quantity Needed

1 Chicken, Diced (based on previous production records/sales data)

3 oz per serving x 1,525 planned servings = 4,575 oz ≈ 286 pounds





Putting It All Together: Prep for Requisitions Calculate Yearly Quantity Needed

1 Chicken, Diced (based on previous production records/sales data)

3 oz per serving x 1,525 planned servings = 4,575 oz ≈ 286 pounds

Chalupas are offered 8 times a year.

286 pounds x = 2,288 pounds diced chicken



Putting It All Together: Prep for Requisitions Calculate Yearly Cases Needed

Chicken, Diced (based on previous production records/sales data)

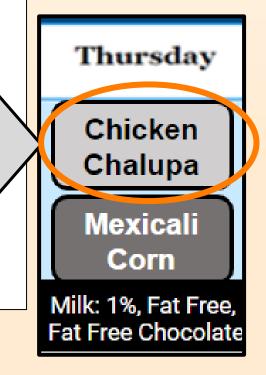
3 oz per serving x 1,525 planned servings = 4,575 oz ≈ 286 pounds

Chalupas are offered 8 times a year.

286 pounds x = 2,288 pounds diced chicken

Each case of Chicken, Diced (#100101) is 40 pounds

2,288 pounds ÷ 40 pounds per case ≈ 58 cases needed per year



Putting It All Together: Prep for Requisitions Count Quantity On Hand

1 Chicken, Diced (based on previous production records/sales data)

3 oz per serving x 1,525 planned servings = 4,575 oz ≈ 286 pounds

Chalupas are offered 8 times a year.

286 pounds x = 2,288 pounds diced chicken

Each case of Chicken, Diced (#100101) is 40 pounds

2,288 pounds ÷ 40 pounds per case ≈ 58 cases needed per year

4 Check for Chicken, Diced (#100101) already in inventory

13 cases in inventory



Putting It All Together: Prep for Requisitions Calculate Cases to Order

Chicken, Diced (based on previous production records/sales data)

3 oz per serving x 1,525 planned servings = 4,575 oz ≈ 286 pounds

Chalupas are offered 8 times a year.

286 pounds x = 2,288 pounds diced chicken

Each case of Chicken, Diced (#100101) is 40 pounds

2,288 pounds ÷ 40 pounds per case ≈ 58 cases needed per year

Check for Chicken, Diced (#100101) already in inventory

13 cases in inventory

Subtract from requisition counts (request only what is needed)

58 cases needed - 13 cases in inventory = 45 cases to request





Putting It All Together: Prepare for Requisitions

Chicken, Diced (based on previous production records/sales data)

3 oz per serving x 1,525 planned servings = 4,575 oz ≈ 286 pounds

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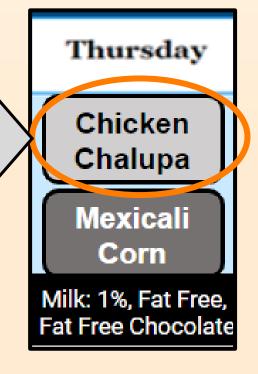
58 cases needed - 13 cases in inventory = 45 cases to request





Putting It All Together: Enter Order Requisition





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Summary



Forecasting Steps

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5	How much does it cost?	Maximize Entitlement	Adjust Menu/Quantities
6	Request USDA FOODS!	WBSCM & FFAVORS	

Summary



- Consider forecasting as a "game" of strategy
- Forecasting is an ongoing process
- ☐ Investing time up front creates success
- ☐ Informs future choices and plans

WBSCM Transition Page QR Code:

Scan QR Code to visit the Food Distribution Program WBSCM Transition website



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1. mail:

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2. fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

3. email:

program.intake@usda.gov

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