# Food Distribution Program 

## Foundations: Forecasting

Texas Department of Agriculture

## Acknowledgement Statement

You understand and acknowledge that:
$\square$ The training you are about to take does not cover the entire scope of the program; and that
$\square$ 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.

# Course Introduction 

## Course Outline and Objectives



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

## Forecasting Overview

\% $1:$

## Forecast Needs RA 003 Forecasting



TDA Allocates USDA Foods
Entitlement
RA 001 Entitlement
RAs Award Processing Bids


Receive
Product


Request USDA
Foods

## What is <br> Forecasting?

## Planning.

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

## What does that look like?

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

What are the benefits
of the forecasting process?

## Purpose and Benefits:

Advanced, detailed planning will assist with...


More cost-effective pricing

Full utilization of entitlement

Fewer menu shortages, purchasing and delivery errors, problems to manage


## Forecasting Cycle



## Request USDA Foods



| 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 |  <br> 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
$\square$ Observe Trends
- Review Food Production Records
- Review Point of Sales Counts


## $\square$ Control Costs

- Available Revenue
- USDA Reimbursement
- Non-Food Costs
$\square$ Budget




## Food Production Records

U 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
$\square$ Analyze which items were:
-More cost effective

- Less cost effective
-Unavailable
- Adjust order quantities, make substitutions based on analysis




## Step 2c. Future Planning



## Step 3: <br> Analyze Food Production Records



## Food Production Records

$\square$ Required daily document demonstrating meals served and claimed

- Keep complete and accurate Food Production Records including:
$\square$ Menus
$\square$ Food Substitutions
$\square$ Meal Pattern Contribution Documentation
$\square$ Must include required elements on TDA Food Production Record Template



## Analyzing Food Production Records

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

DDetermine future trends
$\square$ Adjust preparation amounts
$\square$ Adjust amount of material ordered in the future based on historical usage


## Using Food Production Records



## Food Production Record: Portion Sizes

## Texas Department of Agriculture

Daily Food Production Record for Onsite Kitchen

1. Contracting Entity (CE) Name: Anywhere ISD
2. Site Name: My Elementary School
3. Meal Service: Breakfast X Lunch $\quad$ Snack $\quad$ Supper

Form |Food Production Record |Onsite Kitchen $\begin{array}{r}\text { June 1, } 2020\end{array}$



Food Production Record: Amount Prepared

Texas Department of Agriculture
Form |Food Production Record | Onsite Kitchen
Daily Food Production Record for Onsite Kitchen


## Food Production Record: OVS

Texas Department of Agriculture

1. Contracting Entity (CE) Name: Anywhere ISD
ite Name: My Elementary School


Analyze Food Production Records

## Offer VS. <br> Serve



## Offer vs. Serve: What Kids Want




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.

## Analyze Inventory Reports

Cycle

Menu $\rightarrow$\begin{tabular}{c}
Conduct <br>
Needs <br>
Analysis

$\rightarrow$

Analyze <br>
Records

$\rightarrow$

Analyze <br>
Inventory

$\rightarrow$ Maximize $\rightarrow$

Request <br>
USDA <br>
Foods
\end{tabular}

## Tracking 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
[0] In-house tracking systems
\$ Distributor Tracking Systems

## Actual Monthly Food Counts to Forecast ${ }^{37}$

## Analyze Counts Of: HIt

$\square$ Beginning inventory of purchased and USDA Foods
$\square$ 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 Entitiement 



## Actual Monthly Food Cost to Forecast



## Food Costs for Month

## Determine Cost-Effectiveness

] Gather items needed to complete the Cost Analysis Worksheet

- Follow Cost Analysis Checklist
[ Consider following Best Practice Guidance in comments

DOCUMIENT GATHIERING CHIECKINST FOR COST ANAHYSIS
Use this checkuist as a guide for the documents/data you will need to Use this checkist as a gulde for the documents/data you wwil need to
complete tis sost analysis tool for calculating hee 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
$\square$ List of USDA Foods Brown box items used in your operation

- Include WBSCM \# and product descriptions

USA foods case value
$\circ$ Found in $T X$-UNPS "Annual Monthly Survey
Warehouse storage and delivery fees charged for these products
(access current fees at link below)

- hitps://squaremeals.org/Programs/TooadDistributionPro
hitps://squaremeals.org/Programs/FoodDistributionf
amforCNPTograma/TDAContractedWarehouses.aspx
COMMERCLAL PRODUCT INFORMATION
$\square$ Commercial equivalent product descriptions
$\square$ Tola servings "per case" 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
$\square$ Reference usage reports to determine accurate case counts needed for service of each individual
$\square$ Assure pricing used is accurate and up to date
Calculate any dellvery and service fees betore beginning data entry
component contributions
$\square$ Review entries for accuracy
$\square$ Uiilize the "instructions" tabs of the worksheet to cross check data needed


## USDA Cost Analysis Worksheet



## USDA Cost Analysis Worksheet



## USDA Cost Analysis Worksheet



5
Maximize

## 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

 importantforecasting step?

## Step 6: Request USDA Foods!

Cycle Menu
$\rightarrow\left(\begin{array}{c}\text { Conduct } \\ \text { Needs } \\ \text { Analysis }\end{array}\right) \rightarrow($

## Putting It All Together: Prepare for Requisitions



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

(1) Chicken, Diced (based on previous production records/sales data) $30 z$ per serving $\times \mathbf{1 , 5 2 5}$ planned servings $=4,575 \mathrm{oz} \approx 286$ 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 $\times \mathbf{1 , 5 2 5}$ planned servings $=4,575 \mathrm{oz} \approx 286$ pounds

## $\square 2$ Chalupas are offered 8 times a year. <br> 286 pounds $\times 8=2,288$ pounds diced chicken

Thursday
Chicken Chalupa

Milk: 1\%, Fat Free,
Fat Free Chocolate

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



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



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



5 Subtract from requisition counts (request only what is needed)

$$
58 \text { cases needed }-13 \text { cases in inventory }=45 \text { cases to request }
$$

## Putting It All Together: Prepare for Requisitions



## Putting It All Together: Enter Order Requisition



## Summary



## Forecasting Steps

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## 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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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR\ P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 6329992 , or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. email:
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