

# Local Food for Schools

## June Office Hours

*Melinda Nguyen, Senior Nutrition Specialist*  
*Jennifer Lengyel, Food Systems Specialist*



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**

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[www.SquareMeals.org](http://www.SquareMeals.org)



Food and Nutrition Division  
Nutrition Assistance Programs

# Meeting Agenda

01

**Updates &  
Announcements**

02

**Reimbursement  
Form**

03

**Sharing  
Session &  
Poll**

04

**Questions**



# Grant Updates



Manor ISD – Greener Pastures Chicken

# Reimbursement Process Updates

## Important Deadlines

1. Deadline to make LFS Purchases – **March 31, 2025**
2. Deadline 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 30 days of Finance approval

**Review Reimbursement Process at [www.squaremeals.org/LFS](http://www.squaremeals.org/LFS)**



# LFS Resources

## LFS Resources on SquareMeals

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

## LFS Vendor Resource List

- *List of vendors previously used by grant recipients for reimbursement of LFS funds.*
- *It is not required to use these vendors; if interested in pursuing procurement from any of the vendors listed, federal, state, and local procurement regulations and processes still apply.*
- *Updated list will be sent out by end of summer*



# Announcements



Manor ISD – Fredericksburg Peach Company

# Geographic Preference Webinar

## USDA Webinar on Expanded Geographic Preference in the Final Rule

June 20, Thursday, from 1:00 – 2:00 PM CDT

USDA FNS Patrick Leahy Farm to School Team will host a webinar on the expanded geographic preference option in the final rule, *Child Nutrition Programs: Meal Patterns Consistent With the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.* Register [here](#) to learn more about the expanded geographic preference option.



# Farm Fresh Survey

***TDA is kindly asking NSLP & CACFP Operators to respond to the Farm Fresh Survey 2024!***

- **What is it?**
  - **5–10 minute survey for NSLP & CACFP CN Directors**
- **Why should I take it?**
  - **Helps guide TDA's Farm Fresh Initiative direction and resource development**
  - **Supports future Farm Fresh programming in Texas schools and childcare settings**

Click **[HERE](#)** to complete this important survey through July 31<sup>st</sup>



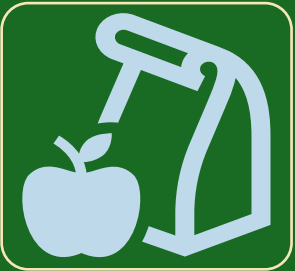


# Farm Fresh at MegaCon

**Thank you for your participation and for visiting the Farm Fresh Table!**

- **Farm Fresh Foundations and Farm Fresh Roundtables - Great success!**
  - **Program Education and Promotion**
  - **Peer to Peer Learning**
  - **Networking and Idea Sharing**
- **Local Food for Schools—How to Spend Grant funds and more!**
  - **Productive and Informative session**
  - **Slides are available on LFS webpage**

# Healthy Meal Incentives (HMI)



## HMI Recognition Awards

- 8 Categories – Awarded on rolling basis
- Applications Close June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Visit [HMI Homepage: healthymealsincentives.org](http://HMI Homepage: healthymealsincentives.org)
- [Squaremeals.org/HMI](http://Squaremeals.org/HMI)

With a year left to apply, 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 the  
Cultural Diversity  
of School Meals**

**Innovation in  
Nutrition  
Education** ★



# Reimbursement



Sinton ISD – Watermelon Radish from Val Verde  
Vegetables Co.



**Beets, Red V/F**  
984-0020 | 5/5 lb



**Watermelon w/ Seeds**  
980-6175 | 1/1 ct



**Watermelon Seedless**  
980-6180 | 1/1 ct



**Trueharvest One Cut Crispy Leaf**  
980-6665 | 4/1.5 lb



**Trueharvest One Cut Truemix**  
980-6667 | 4/1.5 lb

### Vendor Sourcing Information

\*\* Val Verde Vegetable Co. (El Sabino Farms) - 200 Trophy Dr, McAllen, TX 78504 (LFS Approved)  
\*\*\* M&P Produce (Borders Melon Farms) - 260 N Grove St, Uvalde, TX 78801  
\*\*\*\* True Harvest - 111 Trueharvest Wy, Belton, TX 76513 (LFS Approved)



**Beets, Gold V/F**  
985-8027 | 5/5 lb



**Beets, Red V/F**  
984-0020 | 5/5 lb



**Cabbage, Green**  
06-8838 | 1/2 ct  
980-0067 | 1/sack ea



**Collard Greens**  
980-0194 | 1/12 ct



**Leek, Fresh**  
06-8305 | 1/12 ct



**Lettuce, Kale Green**  
981-5275 | 1/6 ct  
981-5267 | 4/6 ct



**Watermelon Radish**  
985-8887 | 1/5 lb  
981-2502 | 5/5 lb



**Grapefruit, Ruby**  
980-4147 | 1/5 lb  
980-4097 | 6/5 lb



**Oranges**  
980-5020 | 1/40 lb



**Spinach Clean & Trim**  
980-3232 | 4/2.5 lb



**Trueharvest Romaine**  
983-1010 | 1/18 ct



**Trueharvest One Cut Crispy Leaf**  
980-6665 | 4/1.5 lb



**Trueharvest One Cut Romaine**  
980-6664 | 4/1.5 lb



**Trueharvest One Cut Truemix**  
980-6667 | 4/1.5 lb

### Vendor Sourcing Information

\*\* Val Verde Vegetable Co. (El Sabino Farms) - 200 Trophy Dr, McAllen, TX 78504 (LFS Approved)  
\*\*\* Wonderful Citrus - 4000 East Goodwin Road, Mission, TX 78574 (Not LFS Approved)  
\*\*\*\* L&L Farms - 750 CR 1005, Batesville, TX 78829 (LFS Approved)  
\*\*\*\*\* True Harvest - 111 Trueharvest Wy, Belton, TX 76513 (LFS Approved)



# Best Practices

- Submit the Payment Request Form in excel spreadsheet vs PDF
- Put invoice attachments in same order as listed on the Payment Request Form when possible
- Submit photos and recipes
- Vendor/producer versus distributor
- Bank statements aren't required
- For distributor invoices with multiple vendors/producers, submit multiple invoices for each vendor (which could mean waiting a few months)

# Sharing Session Poll





# Questions?



# Contact Us



Melinda Nguyen, Senior Nutrition Specialist  
Jennifer Lengyel, Food Systems 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/tpasscmbsearch/>

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



LocalFoodGrant@texasagriculture.gov



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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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