

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

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

Program

March 2026 Monthly Newsletter

[Get Ready for MegaCon 2026!](#)

Commissioner Sid Miller and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) invite you to attend MegaCon 2026 — in Waco, Texas, April 6–8, 2026.

With a new location, a new layout, and a new emphasis on networking with Texas agricultural producers, MegaCon 2026 brings new connections and new opportunities for a Texas-sized Farm Fresh experience.

Organizations participating in the TDA-administered federal nutrition programs and TDA's Farm Fresh initiatives will join us for three days of collaboration, learning, and engagement.

Make plans now to connect with TDA and your colleagues from across the state! For registration details and access to group GSA hotel rates, please visit the [official MegaCon website](#).

Click the headline to view the [full article](#).

[USDA Foods for Further Processing](#)

ROUTINELY CHECK ACCOUNT BALANCES

Every month, Recipient Agencies should check their processing end balances in the tracking systems - [Processor Link](#) and [K12Foodservice](#). Routinely checking balances can ensure that pounds are being drawn down properly, that credit for USDA value has been applied, that transfers have been posted, and that the correct end products are being ordered. If you do not have access to the tracking systems, contact your local [Education Service Center](#) for technical support.

ANNUAL TRANSFER EXERCISE

[Form H4529.1- Authorization to Transfer USDA Foods](#)

Transfers to and from the state account and School-to-School transfers are being conducted from January to April 30, 2026. RAs meeting the transfer criteria of balances being one month or less on hand can request up to three months of inventory, according to their average monthly usage. State account pounds are not always available.

Review your account balances in the tracking systems and check the [State Account Balances](#) before requesting transfers.

[USDA Foods Ordering Updates](#)

[Program Year 2026-2027](#)

The PY27 WBSCM Catalog is closed as of Friday, February 27, 2026.

Click the headline title to view the [full article](#).

[Updated Guidance on Repackaging and Processing Donated Wild Game](#)

TEFAP regulations at 7 CFR 251.8(e)(1) allow food banks to use administrative funds to pay the direct expenses associated with the distribution of USDA Foods and foods secured from other sources to the extent that the foods are ultimately distributed by food banks. Direct expenses include the intrastate and interstate transport, storage, handling, repackaging, processing, and distribution of foods, including donated wild game.

Additionally, federal regulations at 7 CFR 251.13 establish requirements for TEFAP Farm to Food Bank Projects, which are projects to harvest, process, package, or transport foods donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors for use by emergency feeding organizations (EFOs). Animals and animal by-products that are originally unharvested, unprocessed, or unpackaged, and that are donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors, may be harvested, processed, packaged, or transported with Farm to Food Bank project funding. This would include donated wild game. For additional information on TEFAP Farm to Food Bank projects, please visit our [website](#).

[RELEASE: 2026 CSFP Income Eligibility Guidelines](#)

The new 2026 Income Eligibility Guidelines for the Elderly (Form H1666) form for CSFP has been posted and released. The form and instructions can be accessed on [SquareMeals](#).

The IEGs are also posted to the Income Eligibility Guidelines page on SquareMeals: <https://squaremeals.org/FandN-Resources/Income-Eligibility-Guidelines>. Please replace any previous versions of the form that you may have saved.

[Join Us for the March TANS Talk!](#)

[Mark your calendar for Thursday, March 12 from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. \(CDT\)!](#)

TANS Talk is an office hours session that will allow Organizations (formally known as CEs) to review TANS related updates. We are excited to share all of the new updates about this platform and answer any questions.

How to Participate in TANS Talk:

Use this [TANS Talk Feedback Form](#) to submit any TANS questions you would like to see reviewed during the call. We will cover questions received at least 48 hours prior to the call, allowing our team time to prepare for the meeting. Visit the [TANS homepage](#) and [Resources page](#) for access to past TANS Talks, updates, trainings, and more.



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER**



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