

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



SUMMER MEAL

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

Programs

April 2022 Monthly Newsletter

Events, Trainings and Resources

Monthly Newsletter Survey. We Want Your Feedback!

Please take some time to participate in our TDA Monthly Newsletter survey. We would like to gain insight into your experience when reading and receive the newsletter(s) so we can make any needed improvements. [Click here](#) to access the survey.

**HEALTHY
SUMMER
MEALS
FOR KIDS**

Approved Sites and Sponsors Summer Outreach Materials now available - Order Today!

The Summer Meal Programs provide healthy and nutritious meals after the school year ends to children 18 years and younger and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has developed no-cost, online resources and printed materials you can use to promote the availability of these meals for families in need. Make sure you are utilizing new materials this year. Please visit www.SummerFood.org/OutreachTools to order no-cost, print materials today!

REMINDER: The old texting number is no longer valid. The new text line is 304-304. **If you have leftover materials with any other texting number other than 304-304, they are old and must be recycled.**

April Summer Meal Site Marketing Checklist

Continue planning your meal site promotion with this month's marketing checklist. From planning your kick-off event to ordering TDA promotional materials, it's time to turn brainstorming into action. [Click here](#) for your April Marketing Checklist.

Important: "And Justice for All" Poster Display Instructions

Every summer meal site location **must** have the "And Justice for All" poster prominently displayed. For printing instructions, click [here](#).

Deadline for MegaCon Registration Approaching

Join TDA for this multi-program mega conference in Austin, May 2-6. You'll get updates on regulations and guidance, interact with peers and TDA staff, attend interactive training sessions, and find new ways to achieve program success! The deadline for registration is April 27th, 2022.

New Summer Meals Printed Resource Available for Schools

TDA is now offering schools the Keep Summer Meals Going Postcard as a printed resource. Use this postcard to share specific meal site information with students once summer school ends. It is fillable and comes in English and Spanish.

Upcoming SFSP LIVE! Statewide Training!

ESCs statewide will offer virtual training April 13-14, 2022. View course information, agenda and registration information on SquareMeals. This Year's Theme - Summer (Food) Lovin'... Tell me more, Tell me more! Links to more details about the 2-day session and registration information [here](#).

Four Steps to Food Safety: Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill

Separate: Don't cross-contaminate. Prevent bacteria from spreading by following these tips

- Separate raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs away from other foods. This applies when transporting, storing, and cooking food
- Use separate cutting boards, utensils and plates for raw meat, poultry, and seafood
- Download the [SEPARATE factsheet](#) and share with staff.

Coming Soon: New Applications Pages on SquareMeals.org

In the next couple of months, you may notice changes on the TX-UNPS Bulletin Board. All application related updates currently posted on TX-UNPS will be transitioned to SquareMeals.org. Also, going forward there will be a new Applications page located under the **Summer Meal Programs** tab on SquareMeals.org. The new Applications page will contain useful information for current CEs regarding application deadlines, resources, and latest news updates. A direct link to the Applications page on SquareMeals.org will be placed on the TX-UNPS bulletin board for easy access.

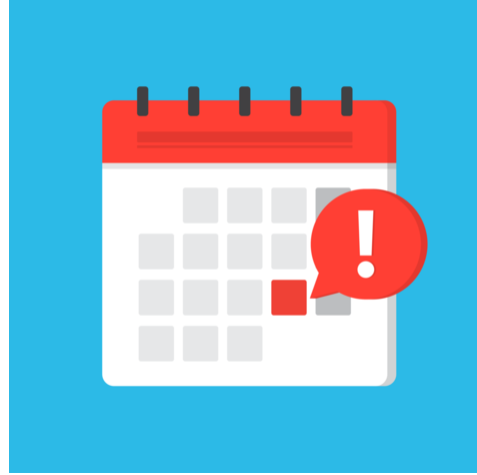
Deadlines

Review This Month's Program Calendar Due Dates!

For upcoming deadlines, see the Program Year Calendar.

Security Form FND-101 to be removed from SquareMeals.org

TDA has fully transitioned to the User Access Manager for all entities and plans to remove the FND-101 form on SquareMeals.org effective 5/1/2022.



Policy Updates and Compliance Reminders

Administrative Reviews Notification

Effective June 1, 2022, TDA F&N will no longer consider Administrative Reviews (ARs) due for review based on the program cycle and program requirements for cancelation/postponement due to COVID impacts. Please contact your local Education Service Center representative for technical assistance; you may also email Community.Ops@Texasagriculture.gov to request technical assistance.



USDA Approves Four Traditional Summer Waivers

USDA has approved TDA's requests to waive first week site visits for experienced SFSP sponsors, waive meal time restrictions for SFSP and SSO, allow closed enrolled SFSP and SSO sites to use area eligibility to establish site eligibility, and allow SFSP non-SFAs to operate Offer vs. Serve meal service. These waivers and flexibilities are traditionally available each summer for these programs. More information on how to implement these waivers is available on the SquareMeals Summer Waivers page via the title link.

Monthly Highlights

Turnip the Beet 2021 Texas Award Recipients

Congratulations to our sixteen Turnip the Beet winners! These sponsors have earned USDA's award for going the extra mile in 2021 to provide nutritious and appealing summer meals.

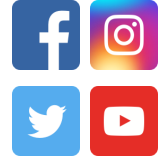


Make sure you read every monthly newsletter for important information, opportunities and events!



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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