



Know Your Farmer Know Your Food Meeting

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Welcome!

- USDA Foods
- DoD Fresh Produce



Objective

- To provide information and background on the USDA Foods and DoD Fresh Produce Programs



USDA Foods

- Schools receive food using USDA entitlement dollars, not out-of-pocket dollars
- Program is customer driven
- Connecticut received \$11 million in USDA Foods entitlement for school year 2011-12
 - 25% Fruits and Vegetables
 - 22% Beef
 - 11% Chicken
 - 22% Cheese



USDA Foods

Fruits and Vegetables

- Over \$2.8 million in 2010
- Canned fruit – extra light sucrose; unsweetened applesauce
- Canned vegetables – 140mg of sodium or less
- Fresh options available
- New items for 2011-12
 - ** Dried mixed fruit, dried blueberries, figs, fresh apples



USDA Foods

USDA Foods for School Year 2011-12

- Vegetables: carrots, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, peas, corn, tomatoes/tomato sauce, black-eyed peas, salsa
 - Beans: green, turtle, pinto, kidney, garbanzo, refried
- Fruits: apples, oranges, cherries, blueberries, strawberries, apricots, peaches, pears, fruit mix, figs, raisins



Department of Defense Fresh Produce Program

Overview

- 1993 – piloted in eight states (\$3.2 million)
- Partnership between DoD Troop Support & USDA
- Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 sets aside \$50 million/year to support the program in all participating states including US territories
- Almost \$80 million today



DOD Program Overview

- USDA Entitlement Dollars
 - Used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables
 - Supplement where USDA Foods cannot provide fresh
 - All American Grown produce
 - Purchase through a single distributor
 - AT Siravo
 - - Sign a long term contract with the DoD Troop Support to provide service to schools and military bases
 - - Responsible for procurement, storage and distribution using commercial industry practices
 - - Contract available at <http://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/produce/pv/60008.pdf>



DoD Fresh in Connecticut

- 2007-08 received \$10,000 (1 School)
- 2011-12 received \$2.4 million (70+ Schools)
- \$25,000 CT Grown to Date

Entitlements range from \$700 - \$400,000



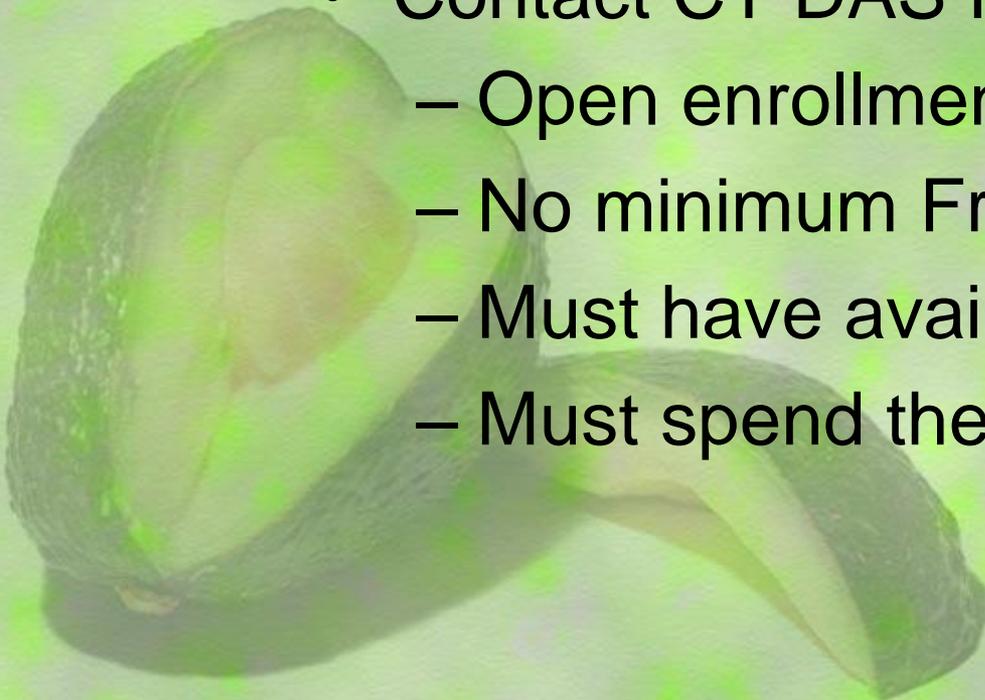
Benefits of DoD Fresh Program

- Offer fresh fruits and vegetables for school lunches/breakfast
- Receive weekly deliveries of only the amounts ordered
- Door-to-Door delivery direct to school sites
- Schools purchase these foods using USDA entitlement dollars, not out-of-pocket dollars
- Local produce options
- Fresh produce comes from an approved source



How do Schools get on the DoD Program?

- Participate in the National School Lunch Program
- Participate in the USDA Foods Program
- Contact CT DAS Food Distribution Team
 - Open enrollment
 - No minimum Free/Reduced %
 - Must have available entitlement
 - Must spend their money!



CT Food Distribution & DOD Fresh Produce Program

- Promote the DoD Fresh to schools
- Encourage schools to participate and to maximize DoD entitlement dollars
- Encourage variety in DoD purchases



How do Farmers Sell Produce through the DoD Program?

- Contact Ed Andrews at AT Siravo
(401) 275-5800



Food Safety

What are some of the ways schools manage risk when purchasing produce?

- Look for/ask for assurances – give preference to farmers that have food safety program, such as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)/other nationally recognized certifications
- Only use suppliers licensed to process produce, who must use Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) or similar
- Train food handlers (staff, teachers, and consumers) proper produce safety
- Maintain the “cold chain” for purchasing, receiving, storage, preparation, and service of the produce



Food Safety continued...

What best practices do schools use to minimize risk when purchasing fresh produce?

- Establish school and school district ordering and inventory management procedures, specifications, and requirements that may include GAP and,
 - * require processed fruits and vegetables to have Good Handling Practices (GHP) including documentation
 - * Safe handling, safe delivery
 - * Product traceability
- Establish relationships with farmers, suppliers, and distributors for specifications and requirements for safe food handling
- Questions should be directed to state and local officials when establishing management procedures



Food Safety continued...

What should Food Service Directors do?

- Write procurement specifications that are mindful of food safety for purchasing and delivery– for all purchases
- Use appropriate produce handling methods to ensure safety at receiving, inventory, preparation, and service management programs
- Review food safety program to make sure that produce safety is included
- Incorporate produce safety into any novel delivery (outside of classroom) of produce that might be used
- Assess refrigeration equipment needs for appropriate produce storage, including equipment needed for novel delivery areas



Food Safety continued...

What best practices should be used to minimize the risk when purchasing fresh-cut or ready-to-eat produce?

- Establish procurement specifications that include GAP and GHP requirements
- Ask about safety audits of the processor
- Determine if state licensing is required and terms have been met



Benefits of DoD

- AT Siravo is responsible for produce procurement
- Farmers must meet procurement standards for one vendor, not several school districts
- Farmers deliver to one location or create a cooperative with other farmers to deliver to one location



Procurement Requirements

- Open and Fair
- Geographic Preference:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/Policy-Memos/2011/SP18-2011_os.pdf



What are CT School Children Eating?



What are CT School Children Eating?



Let's Get More CT Grown in DoD!

- FDP is committed to bringing CT \$\$ back to CT
- Created partnerships with agricultural and Education agencies (CT Dept of Ag, CSDE, USDA and DoD)
- Partner with DoD vendor, AT Siravo, to offer local produce to DoD participants





**KNOW YOUR FARMER
KNOW YOUR FOOD**

Questions?

