**DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. ***What is the DoD Fresh Program?***

A program in which Recipient Agencies (RAs) or School Food Authorities (SFAs) that have participated in National School Lunch Program (NSLP) can utilize their entitlement dollars from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which they commit to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables through the Department of Defense. The entitlement dollars committed are deducted from the RAs or SFAs entitlement balance prior to the Pre-Order Survey. The dollars are then diverted to the DoD Fresh Program.

1. ***Is participation in the DoD Fresh program mandatory?***

No. The DoD Fresh program is optional and is an additional distribution channel for spending entitlement dollars. However, entitlement dollars that are committed to the DoD Fresh program will result in less “money” available and will draw down from your Indiana Department of Education’s state entitlement total to purchase other options with USDA Foods. Commitments are usually requested at the end of the calendar year.

1. ***Who can participate in the DoD Fresh program?*** The DoD Fresh Program is open to Recipient Agencies (RAs) or School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the USDA Foods Program through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) that earned entitlement dollars by serving lunches to students in the previous year.
2. ***Who administers the DoD Fresh Program?***

While the Indiana Department of Education, draws down the entitlement dollar commitment, the DoD Fresh Program is administered by the Department of Defense and the bills are handled by the USDA.

1. ***If I participate in the DoD Fresh program using entitlement dollars, will I receive an invoice for products ordered through DoD?***

No. All bills for produce ordered by schools participating in the DoD Fresh program using entitlement dollars are sent to and paid by USDA. However, schools should be aware that the entitlement value of each product ordered through this program includes a service fee of DoD’s operational costs in addition to the daily market product costs. Recipient Agencies (RAs) participating in this program using entitlement dollars can continue to participate until they have expended the entitlement dollars committed to this program for the current school year.

1. ***Is there a minimum entitlement commitment request per RA in order to participate on the DoD Fresh program in Indiana?***

Yes. A total of 10-20% minimum entitlement commitment is required for participation in the DoD Fresh program per RA.

1. ***How will I know the DoD commitment funds have been allocated?***

It will show a special allocation under the “Entitlement tab” on your account on CNPweb. This amount will be deducted from your entitlement prior to (before) the annual Pre-Order Survey.

1. ***How do I sign up for DoD’s web-based ordering system (FFAVORS)?***

Produce orders are placed through the DoD web-based Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Order Receipts System (FFAVORS) and delivered by the DoD contract vendor. For schools that have not previously participated in the DoD Fresh program, the DoD team will need to set up your school district in their FFAVORS ordering system. To assist in this process, an account setup form will need to be completed providing DoD basic contact information, delivery window and address information for each delivery location.

1. ***When products are ordered through the DoD Fresh program, will the products be delivered along with the current monthly USDA Foods delivery?***

No. The delivery of products ordered through the DoD Fresh program are completely separate from the delivery of USDA Foods and will not be handled by regular USDA approved distributors through the current state contracted warehouse. The program utilizes long-term contractors and the contracted vendors work under agreements with varying amounts of one-year options based on performance. Contracted vendors submit catalogs weekly and include a wide variety of domestically-grown produce items. The item price listed on the catalog in FFAVORS is the final price, as nothing is added post transaction.

1. ***Are there any restrictions on what types of fresh fruits and vegetables can be ordered through the DoD Fresh program?***

Yes. Under USDA regulations, foreign products cannot be purchased with entitlement dollars so the program is restricted to domestically-grown items. All items must be purchased in the United States.

1. ***Are “Local” Indiana products identified on the FFAVORS ordering system?***

Yes, at this time all local items are marked as "LOCAL" highlighted in green on the catalog.

1. ***Who is the point of contact with the DoD Fresh program?***

For questions regarding participation and the amount of entitlement dollars an RA wants to commit contact:

Cheryl Moore

317-234-2516

cmoore@doe.in.gov

For questions regarding login and password, FFAVORS, deliveries, quality of the product or any other issues after enrollment in the program contact:

Hattie Richardson

hattie.richardson@dla.mil