



USING USDA DOD FRESH TO PURCHASE LOCAL PRODUCE

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THE USDA DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (USDA DoD Fresh) is available to schools in 48 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. More than 22,000 schools receive fresh fruits and vegetables from this program. Schools interested in participating in the USDA DoD Fresh program should reach out to the State Distributing Agency.

How Does It Work?

USDA DoD Fresh is a partnership between USDA and the Department of Defense (DoD) Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). This program leverages DoD's procurement system to provide a variety of nutritious U.S.-grown fresh fruits and vegetables to schools. Schools receive two types of support from the USDA. The majority of the support is provided in the form of cash reimbursement for the meals served, and the second form of support is the ability to order foods that USDA purchases ("USDA Foods") which can make up about 15-20% of the value of the food served in the National School Lunch Program. USDA DoD Fresh is one option that schools can use to spend their entitlement.

What are the Advantages of DoD Fresh?

- * **Flexibility:** USDA DoD Fresh is another choice in a request-driven system to help States and school districts manage and utilize USDA Foods entitlement more effectively.
- * **Consistency:** USDA DoD Fresh vendors update the catalog weekly and schools can receive deliveries as frequently as every week, making orders timely, fresh, and responsive to market fluctuations.

- * **High quality:** DoD maintains high quality standards through Produce Quality Audits, requires vendors to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP), and requires that pre-cut produce is sourced from approved suppliers.
- * **Variety:** USDA DoD Fresh offers many different types and varieties of produce, all grown in the United States. School districts can choose between different package sizes, whole or pre-cut options, and can select locally grown produce when in season.
- * **Easy ordering and funds tracking:** Schools place orders via the web-based Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Order/Receipt System (FFAVORS). The prices listed in the FFAVORS catalog reflect the prices that schools will be billed for the product. FFAVORS tracks schools' entitlement fund balances and total order costs. DoD manages vendor payment and reconciliation.



CASE QUANTITY	ITEM CODE	DESCRIPTION	STATE OF ORIGIN	CASE CONTENTS	CASE PRICE	
	14M10	APPLES R/D 125-138 CT 40 LBS CS	MI, PA, WA	40 LB	\$25.98	
	14M33	CARROTS WHL 5 LB BG	*Local Grown	GA	5 LB	\$5.20
	15A85	PEPPERS SWT CHL GRN DICE 5 LB BG	*Local Grown	FL	35 LB	\$13.58
	15M94	ORANGES CHIL 50/4.7 OZ CO		CA	15 LB	\$30.45
	15Q29	KALE GREEN 1/20 LB CS	*Local Grown	GA,SC	20 LB	\$17.95
	18B17	TOMATOES FRESH 5X6 5 LB CS	*Local Grown	FL	5 LB	\$7.56
	18A54	BLUEBERRIES FRESH 12/6 OZ EA 4.5 LB CS	*Local Grown	CA, NC	5 LB	\$19.40

The FFAVORS catalog indicates which foods are grown locally.

Local Produce through USDA DoD Fresh

All produce is required to be grown in the United States. Vendors provide the state of origin for each product. Local produce is defined as produce from within the state or adjacent states. Vendors are encouraged to provide local products in season. Local produce must meet contract requirements for quality and food safety and be priced competitively.

What Should States and School Districts Do if They Want to Source Local Foods Through USDA DoD Fresh?

States and schools that want to purchase local foods through USDA DoD Fresh should start by looking for products already marked with the state or origin in the FFAVORS catalog. States and schools can also contact their USDA DoD Fresh produce vendor to find out which local products the vendor expects to carry throughout the year, or to make their interest in local produce known to the USDA DoD Fresh vendor.

How is the Program Funded?

States work with schools to manage how much USDA Foods entitlement to allocate to USDA DoD Fresh and to ensure entitlement is fully utilized.

Learn More

The **Defense Logistics Agency website** provides background information about DoD and links to each vendor’s contract.

The **Food and Nutrition Service website** provides contact information for farm to school personnel in your area, and a helpful history of the DoD Fresh program.

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For more information, and to sign up for the bi-weekly e-letter from the Food and Nutrition Service’s Office of Community Food Systems, please visit www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool. Questions? Email us at farmtoschool@fns.usda.gov.

