

2020 Serving Up USDA Foods Photo Contest Submission Details

USDA is hosting the fourth annual photo contest! The “Show us Your Tray” contest might have a new name, but we still want to see how you “Serve up USDA Foods” in your school meals!

Inspire other child nutrition professionals and submit a picture of your most creative meal utilizing direct-delivered* USDA Foods. It could be a breakfast or a lunch meal. With over 200 USDA Foods items available, we want to highlight the innovative ways in which they can be used. Show us how you use USDA Foods proteins, fruits, vegetables, grains, and dairy to liven up your meals! Your submissions will provide child nutrition professionals with healthy, creative, student-approved meal ideas utilizing USDA Foods.

Choose one or more of the following categories to showcase your most creative dish(es) serving up direct-delivered* USDA Foods that have not been further processed.

Category	Description
Gold Meal Award	<i>Show us the rainbow! This is the highest honor and features the most innovative use of more than one USDA Foods including fruits, vegetables, grains, protein, and dairy. Submit a photo of a colorful meal, either breakfast or lunch, which creatively displays student-approved dishes using direct-delivered* USDA Foods.</i>
Breakfast Award	<i>Start the day off right with a healthy breakfast of USDA Foods! Submit a photo of a breakfast meal your students love that serves up creatively displayed direct-delivered* USDA Foods.</i>
Protein Power Award	<i>Proteins pack a powerful punch in any meal. This category will feature the most creative dish using animal or plant-based proteins from the Foods Available List. Submit a photo of a menu item that creatively displays a student-approved dish using direct-delivered* USDA Foods poultry, pork, beef, fish, legumes, nuts, or seeds.</i>
Great Grains Award	<i>Go further with fiber! This category will feature the most creative dish using grains from the Foods Available List. Submit a photo of a menu item that creatively displays a student-approved dish using direct-delivered* USDA Foods whole grain or whole-grain rich options.</i>
Say Cheese Award	<i>Dairy products are a great addition to any meal. Submit a photo of a menu item that creatively displays a student-approved dish using direct-delivered* USDA Foods cheese and/or yogurt.</i>

*Photos must contain direct-delivered (brown box) USDA Foods. Photos may contain further processed items from bulk USDA Foods, or USDA DoD Fresh items, but photos containing only processed items or DoD Fresh products will not be judged. Direct-delivered USDA Foods are those available on [The Foods Available List](#) for School Year (SY) 19-20.

The *Serving up USDA Foods* photo contest beings **November 1, 2019** and ends **January 15, 2020** at 11:59 p.m. EST. Please send all entries to the USDA Foods mailbox (USDAFoods@usda.gov).



Submission Details:

1. Include your name, school district, State, and category of your submission.
2. Identify which foods are direct-delivered USDA Foods and list all ingredients included in your meal.
3. Submit a high-resolution photo of your prepared meal, using USDA Foods. [Learn how to determine your photo's resolution.](#)

Participants can submit up to one photo for each category but will only have one chance to win!

Photo Tips:

1. Take photos using good lighting in the highest resolution possible. Blurry photos **will not** be judged.
2. Ensure that the direct-delivered USDA Foods are clearly visible in the photo(s).
3. Please do not send photos featuring people or food brands/companies. These photos **will not** be judged.
4. The prepared meal can be photographed on a tray, plate, or container as it would appear during meal service, or stand-alone as it would appear for a taste test or single serving. [Check out examples of previous submissions.](#) The 2019 Gold Tray Award Winner was:



Tuckahoe Common School District, NY Teriyaki Chicken over Noodles
USDA Foods Used: Fajita Chicken, Spaghetti, Broccoli, and Oranges

Judging Criteria:

USDA staff will determine a winner for each category based on the creative use and display of USDA Foods and photo quality, with an emphasis on direct-delivered (brown box) USDA Foods.

The winning submissions will receive a certificate of recognition, be featured at the [School Nutrition Association Legislative Action Conference](#), in a Special Edition of our [“USDA Foods from Farm to Plate” E-letter](#), the [American Commodity Distribution Association Annual Meeting](#), and on our [website](#)!

Show us how you Serve up USDA Foods and submit your photos to USDAFoods@usda.gov by January 15, 2020!



2020 Serving Up USDA Foods Photo Contest Sample Submission Email:

Please send a separate email for each submission. Each submission should include only one photo.

To: USDAFoods@usda.gov

Subject: 2020 Serving up USDA Foods Photo Contest Submission - <name of submission category>



Attachment: Attach a high-resolution photo.

Name: <enter full name>

School District: <enter school district>

State: <enter State>

Category: <enter category> choose from this list:

- Gold Meal Award
- Breakfast Award
- Protein Power Award
- Great Grains Award
- Say Cheese Award

Name of Dish: <enter name of dish>

Direct-delivered USDA Foods included: <list all USDA Foods highlighted> Remember, all qualifying foods can be found on the [Foods Available List for School Year \(SY\) 19-20](#).

Ingredients: <list all of the ingredients to make the dish> (directions to prepare the dish are not required)

Thank you,

NOTES:

- Please do not send links to Dropbox or any other file-sharing site. We will not be able to access the files.
- Please send a separate email for each submission.

Disclaimer: By submitting photos to this contest, you consent that they may be used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and/or others with the consent of USDA, for the purposes of illustration or publication in any legally authorized manner. You understand that these pictures and information will be used in educational materials, such as USDA brochures, newsletters, videos, or news releases, to help others understand how USDA programs help people. The pictures and information will not be used for any commercial, money-making purpose.

