

DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Frequently Asked Questions

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 along with our three main distribution channels in Minnesota: Regular USDA Foods, The Minnesota Rebate Program and Fee-For-Service. However, entitlement dollars that are committed to the DoD Fresh program will result in less “money” available and will draw down from the Minnesota Department of Education’s state entitlement total to purchase other options with USDA Foods.

2. *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.

3. *Is there a minimum entitlement commitment request per RA in order to participate on the DoD Fresh program for SY2013 in Minnesota?*

Yes. A total minimum entitlement commitment request allocation for both delivery periods (July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012 and October 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013) of \$3,000 is required for participation in the SY2013 DoD Fresh program per RA to qualify for the program.

4. *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.

5. *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.

6. *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.

7. *How far in advance must orders be placed?*

Contractually with this program, RAs will at least have one delivery per week and delivery days will be assigned in accordance with the contracted vendor's pre-established routing. A minimum delivery amount of \$100.00 per delivery location site is currently in place, but may fluctuate yearly dependent upon DoD's distribution contract. The FFAVORS system requires orders to be submitted no later than three full business days prior to delivery day. Example: for Monday delivery, orders must be placed no later than the previous Tuesday, leaving Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as the mandatory three full business day lead time. Please submit orders on time to alleviate system complications.

8. *Are "Local" Minnesota products identified on the FFAVORS ordering system?*

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

9. *Who is the field troop support point of contact with the DoD Fresh program for the State of Minnesota?*

Brian Kern
Field Operations
DLA Troop Support
(740) 415-6551
brian.kern@dla.mil