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For more information on the
Department of Defense Fresh Produce Program
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or

www.azed.gov/health-nutrition/dod-fresh-produce-program



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Department of Defense Fresh Produce Program

DoD Fresh Produce

Eat Fresh, Live Well

The Program

The Department of Defense Fresh Produce Program is an option for schools participating in the National School Lunch and the USDA Foods Programs. The DoD Fresh Produce Program allows schools to obtain fresh fruits and vegetables for their school foodservice using entitlement funds.



We give you what you expect FRESH



“The students just love the whole fruits and we waste nothing!”

Pam Iose

Mingus Union High School District

The DoD Fresh Produce Program allows sponsors to take a portion or all of their USDA Foods entitlement and apply it to the DoD Fresh Produce Program.

A local vendor/distributor delivers American grown fresh produce to schools throughout Arizona. Schools can receive deliveries as often as once per week from July 1 through June 30.

The fresh produce can be served during school breakfast, lunch, and the after-school snack program.

Why the Department of Defense?

In 1994, the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service began working with the Agricultural Marketing Service and other agencies, in and out of government, to explore options for providing more fresh fruit and vegetable products to schools. This meeting led to talks with the Department of Defense, to enter into a pilot project to supply fresh fruits and vegetables directly to schools along with their deliveries to military installations or other sites in the United States. An agreement was signed by administrators of the Food and Nutrition Service, Agricultural Marketing Service, and DoD in August 1995 authorizing the program.

Advantages of the DoD Fresh Produce Program include greater buying power, consistent deliveries, emphasis on high quality, a large variety of produce items including pre-cuts and locally grown, and an easy-to-use ordering website with funds tracking.

Through the Department of Defense Fresh Produce Program, the USDA has been able to offer schools a wider variety of fresh produce which would normally not be available through USDA purchases. USDA has met with DoD, and expressed its desire that local procurement efforts be further increased. We are aware that DoD is procuring locally to the greatest extent possible, consistent with season and quality.

