

Guidance for Commodity Ordering

Using your commodity foods fully is one of the most effective ways to ensure your foodservice program is financially stable. To support your profitability and use of USDA commodities, NutriStudents K-12 menus incorporate many USDA commodity foods, and fresh produce available through the Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program. With proper ordering, using the guidelines below, you will get the most out of commodities.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

We recommend NutriStudents K-12 users maximize use of the DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program or a similar program that may be offered in your state. Some schools or districts may choose to allocate 100% of their USDA Food Entitlements to DoD fresh produce since it is used frequently in our menus.

If you do have USDA Foods Entitlements remaining after ordering DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, we recommend splitting the remaining amount 50-50 between USDA Unseasoned Chicken Strips (#110462) or USDA Diced Chicken and another USDA Food such as ground beef or shredded cheese.

Non-Produce Commodities

If the DoD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program is not available to you, you can still get the most from your USDA Food Entitlements. In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables, NutriStudents K-12 menus incorporate the following USDA commodity foods:

1. USDA Frozen Beef Crumble
2. USDA Frozen Raw Ground Beef
3. USDA Chicken Strips
4. USDA Diced Chicken
5. USDA Canned Fruit #10 cans
6. USDA Frozen Vegetables (Beans, Corn, Carrots, Broccoli)
7. USDA Canned Legumes (Garbanzo Beans, Black Beans, Pinto Beans, Navy Beans)
8. USDA Applesauce Cups
9. USDA Reduced Fat Shredded Mozzarella and Cheddar Cheese

To further simplify your USDA commodities orders, you could simply allocate your USDA Food Entitlements as follows:

- 50% - USDA Chicken
- 25% - USDA Beef Crumble or Raw Beef
- 12.5% - USDA Canned Fruits
- 12.5% - USDA Frozen Vegetables

If you have questions about USDA Food Entitlements or ordering, please contact us at 844.204.2847.

