



DoD (Department of Defense) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program?

The DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program provides domestically grown, fresh fruits and vegetables to schools. It is one of three ways SFA's can use their entitlement funds. In addition to the 6 yearly USDA food deliveries and NOI (Net Off Invoice), SFA's have the option of allocating dollars to the DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. SFA's can choose to participate in 1, 2 or all 3 of these programs. Committing entitlement dollars to the DoD program means that SFA's will have less money to spend on USDA food deliveries and/or NOI.

Loffredo Fresh Produce currently holds the DoD contract for the state of Iowa and delivers produce directly to schools. SFA's order produce through an online ordering system called FFAVORS (Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Order Receipt System). Produce can be ordered up to once per week.

2. Is participation in the DoD program mandatory?

No. The DoD program is an optional way to use entitlement funds for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables. Roughly 30% of all schools currently participate in this program.

3. How can I check to make sure Loffredo delivers to our area?

Contact your State Agency. Each year the DoD negotiates a contract with the bid winner of the DoD program. Delivery locations are a part of this negotiation. Sign up for the DoD program on-time (usually in December of the preceding school year) so that your location can be included in this process.

4. If I participate in the program, will I need to pay for delivery or any other related fee?

No. All bills for produce ordered by SFA's are paid by the DoD. Each time an SFA makes an order it will be deducted from the balance of the total dollar amount which is allocated to this program. When a DoD budget is depleted, SFA's will be unable to continue ordering produce. Balances can be monitored in FFAVORS. Produce prices include a delivery fee, in addition to a minimal DoD administrative fee.

5. When my DoD budget is depleted, can I continue ordering produce from Loffredo?

Produce would need to be bid, unless it was included in the market basket during the RFP process.

6. Is there a minimum commitment?

Yes. The minimum yearly commitment is \$2,000. Outside of that parameter, each SFA decides how much of their entitlement budget they would like to divert to this program. Fresh fruits and vegetables can be ordered up to once per week. There is a minimum weekly order of \$50.

7. What happens to any unused DoD balance at the end of the school year?

The State Agency will monitor balances regularly. If it appears that the entire DoD budget will not be used it may be given to another school. Unused balances do not carry-over and will be forfeited.

8. Will products be delivered along with my USDA foods delivery?

No. This program is separate from USDA foods. These programs do not interact with each other. Loffredo Fresh Produce will deliver your produce and multiple delivery locations can be provided.

9. Are there restrictions on the type of fresh fruits and vegetables that can be ordered?

Yes. Because the DoD program offers only domestic fruits and vegetables, there are some limitations. Bananas, for example, are generally not an option through the DoD program because they are largely grown outside of the United States. Produce offered is seasonal so options will change throughout the year. Produce catalogs are located on the FFAVORS system.

10. How far in advance must orders be placed?

Three full business days. Each school district will be assigned a delivery day. For example, Loffredo generally delivers to the Cedar Rapids area on Monday. Schools are assigned a delivery day based on geographical location and the overall delivery schedule of other schools who participate in the program.

SFA's must place orders **no later** than 3 business days ahead of the scheduled delivery day. For example, if a school has an assigned delivery day of Wednesday the SFA must place an order on or before the previous Thursday. Delivery days will be assigned upon enrollment into the program.

11. Are local products offered?

Yes. These products will be clearly marked "local" on the online ordering system.

12. Can I use DoD for SFSP?

No. DoD produce can only be used during the school year.

13. Is there anything we need to know about FFAVORS, the online ordering system?

The State Agency is available to walk SFA's through the FFAVORS system and to provide training and support. Internet Explorer is the most optimal browser for accessing FFAVORS, but other browsers such as Firefox or Safari (Mac) can be used.

14. How do I get started?

Each December, the State Agency asks SFA's to determine how much money they would like to allocate to this program for the next school year. SFA's should review their entitlement budgets before deciding how much money to allocate to this program. Once enrolled, the State Agency will obtain contact information for a designated ordering authority, as well as address information for each delivery site. This information will be submitted to the DoD by the State Agency, and SFA's will receive an email with instructions on signing up for a FFAVORS account. A more detailed DoD ordering manual will be provided to all participants. Webinars for getting started will also be provided.

If you are interested in signing up for this program, or have other questions, contact Jill Stuecker at the Iowa Department of Education: jill.stuecker@iowa.gov or 515-725-2887.