



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HEALTH / AGRICULTURE BUILDING
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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor
KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DOUGLAS H. FISHER
Secretary

To: School Business Administrators
Charter School Leads
Non-Public School Administrators
Food Service Directors
NJ Processors of USDA Foods

From: Rose Tricario, Director
Division of Food and Nutrition

Date: March 23, 2012

Re: Lean Finely Texture Beef - LFTB

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) stands behind the quality and safety of Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) and urges consumers to consult science based information on the safety and quality of this product. It is safe, and has been utilized in the production of commercial and USDA beef products for the past two decades. However, in response to requests from school districts across the country, USDA is offering options for states and school districts that would like the choice.

Below is information that you will need regarding USDA beef through state contracted warehouses, current processor balances, and beef products for school year 2012-2013. Additionally, there are facts about LFTB that you can share with your school community to facilitate a better understanding of the product.

School Year 2011-2012 Beef Orders

When USDA sent out their beef specifications, they included the option for the vendor to use LFTB in their product. LFTB is an optional ingredient that vendors may use up to 10% in coarse ground beef and 15% in other fine ground beef products. What does this mean to you?

- USDA cannot identify the cases containing LFTB. It is beef, and it does not require separate identification.
- Within a truckload, some cases may contain LFTB and some may not.

- Beef deliveries through June 30, 2012 were ordered under these specifications.
- As for beef processing, product #100154 - beef coarse ground, is the only product that may or may not contain up to 10% LFTB. Product #100155 - beef fresh boneless combo, does not contain LFTB.
- All beef products through the warehouse may or may not contain up to 15% LFTB, and includes NJDA codes 001A – beef ground, 004A – lean beef patties, and 004B – extra lean beef patties.
- Since USDA does not consider this a food safety or quality issue, funds are not available for entitlement reimbursement or replacement of beef products for the 2011-2012 school year.
- School districts that have beef at the state contracted warehouses, or remaining with processors, are expected to take delivery of the products and pay truckers, processors, distributors, etc. accordingly.
- **However, for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year in New Jersey:**
 - **Food Distribution will waive the administration fee for all Beef products. This will include warehouse invoices and processor deliveries from April 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.**
 - **If you have already submitted your April allocation for warehouse USDA foods, and would like to change your beef selections, please contact Food Distribution at 609-984-4375. The May & June allocations will not have beef products listed as an offering.**
 - **If school districts do not take their allocated USDA beef remaining with processors, the school district will forfeit the entitlement attached to that product. Should you elect to forfeit your processor beef entitlement, you must notify Jacqueline Thomas at NJDA Food Distribution no later than April 13, 2012. Please use the attached cancellation form.**

School Year 2012-2013 Beef Orders

NJDA Food Distribution will be purchasing only ground beef products without LFTB for the 2012-2013 school year. This means that the beef entitlement you selected for processing, along with beef products listed on the warehouse allocations for the 2012-2013 school year, will not have LFTB.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Food Distribution at 609-292-0337.

USDA Foods
2011-2012 NJ Processed Beef Cancellation Form
Commodity Code #100154, beef coarse ground

Quantity in pounds	Processor Name	Recipient Agency Name

By signing this form, I as the Recipient Agency, understand that I am forfeiting the value of the USDA Foods listed above.

Business Administrator Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZATION:

Signature: _____ **Title:** _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

- **Please fax this form to Food Distribution at 609-948-5367, attention Jacqueline Thomas, no later than April 13, 2012.**