

## USDA News

### USDA ANNOUNCES CONTRACTS FOR ROUND THREE OF THE FARMERS TO FAMILIES FOOD BOX PROGRAM

The Following is an excerpt of a statement released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on September 17.

Following President Donald Trump's approval to include up to an additional \$1 billion in the Farmers to Families Food Box Program, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved up to \$1 billion in contracts to support American producers and communities in need through the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program. Earlier this week, USDA reached a milestone of having distributed more than 90 million food boxes in support of American farmers and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"These contract awards will go to vendors who submitted the strongest proposals in support of American agriculture and the American people. The high level of interest and quality of proposals are a testament that the program is accomplishing what we intended - supporting U.S. farmers and distributors and getting food to those who need it most. It's a real trifecta, which is why we call it a win-win-win," said Secretary Perdue. "Thanks to President Trump and his commitment to the program with the announcement of an additional \$1 billion in funding, more farmers will be supported, and more families will receive the nutritious food they need during these difficult times."

These contract awards are a result of the third round of Farmers to Families Food Box program announced on July 24, 2020, and President Trump's announcement on August 24 that up to an additional \$1 billion was being made available for deliveries through October 31, 2020. A full list of approved suppliers is available on the [Farmers to Families Food Box Program](#) webpage.

In this third round of purchases, USDA announced plans to purchase combination boxes to ensure all recipient organizations have access to fresh produce, dairy products, fluid milk and meat products. These boxes will be distributed to every county in America.

USDA solicited new proposals for the third round. Proposals were required to illustrate how coverage would be provided to areas identified as opportunity zones, detail subcontracting agreements, and address the "last mile" delivery of product into the hands of the food insecure population.

Entities who met the government's requirements and specifications were issued agreements and submitted pricing through a competitive acquisition process. Agreements were awarded based on the pricing submitted for the delivery locations proposed, box content, last mile delivery plans, means testing compliance, and support of small and local/regional food systems.

The full press release can be found at [www.ams.usda.gov/press-release/usda-announces-contracts-round-3-farmers-families-food-box-program](http://www.ams.usda.gov/press-release/usda-announces-contracts-round-3-farmers-families-food-box-program).

