

Advisory Committee & Regional Contacts

Region 1 (Counties: Allen , Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hardin, Henry, Logan, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Union, Van Wert, Williams)

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Advisory Committee & Regional Contacts

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EPC/MEC Commodity Program

Direct Diversion Commodity Cooperative Program



**WHAT IS IT?
WHY USE IT?**

What is Direct Diversion of Commodities ?

A commodity Co-Op (made up of member school districts) allows the members to select USDA commodities differently than the current state system. You select from the processors that the Co-Op uses and the items those processors make. For example, when you place a commodity order for chicken, you *directly divert* it to the processor for production into the products you want to use (example: Tyson chicken patties, nuggets, or fajita meat). Currently the Co-Op uses two different processors for chicken with a total of 27 different commodity chicken items available.

What About Brown Box Commodity Items ?

Brown box items (macaroni, canned fruit, etc.) can still be ordered. They can be shipped from the USDA to the contracted distributor's warehouse (currently GFS), and held there until ordered by the district, along with the district's regular supply deliveries. Storage is free for the first 60 days. After 60 days, there is a small storage fee of .01 cent/case/day.

What are the Advantages of a Direct Diversion Co-Op?

- ◇ Process foods at multiple manufacturers with a wider variety of products for the district to choose from.
- ◇ Food delivered as needed with regular supply deliveries.
- ◇ Shipping and Handling charges will be less.
- ◇ Diverted commodities are available all year long.
- ◇ Additional processing manufacturers are available.
- ◇ Commodities arrive faster.
- ◇ Inventories of commodities on hand at suppliers are verified by DJ Co-Ops (current program facilitator).
- ◇ Better utilization of commodities is achieved
- ◇ Unlimited trading of community products within the Co-Op is available without paper transfer to the state.
- ◇ Many new products are available such as 60# Fresh Combo Beef, Tomato Paste, Flour Baker Hearth, Alaskan Pollock, and Bulk Vegetable Oil which can be sent on to manufacturers for use in products districts want.

What are the Advantages of a Direct Diversion Co-Op?

The Co-Op receives pricing from interested manufacturers on processed items. The advisory board facilitates choosing/approving the products member schools want to use in their meals. Member schools may use any approved processor as long as the amount of product ordered meets the state and processor minimums. Each district is charged the contract price and the distributor markup for a delivered price to the door. The program facilitator (currently, DJ Co-Ops) also receives a small fee per case shipped to a processor or distributor. All offerings are either sent to the manufacturer or distributor as requested by the member district. A monthly summary statement of commodities is posted on the DJ Co-Ops website for each district that includes all transactions for the month.

INTERESTED?
HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?
CALL YOUR REGIONAL
CONTACT LISTED ON THE BACK
OF THIS BROCHURE