

# Pilot Project for the Procurement of Unprocessed Fruit and Vegetables

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## What is the Pilot Project?

Section 4202 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), otherwise known as the Farm Bill, amended Section 6 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1755(f)) to provide for a pilot project for the procurement of unprocessed fruits and vegetables in not more than eight States receiving funds under Section 6. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will work closely with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to implement this pilot project.

## **The Pilot Project, Continued...**

The pilot project will provide State Distributing Agencies (SDAs) in selected States additional flexibility in the procurement of unprocessed fruits and vegetables. School food authorities (SFAs) in selected States, or SDAs acting on behalf of participating SFAs, will be permitted to competitively solicit a USDA-approved vendor using USDA Foods National School Lunch Program (NSLP) entitlement funds. SDAs or SFAs will also be able to use pre-existing commercial distribution channels and relationships with growers, produce wholesalers, and distributors. Use of geographic preference, as allowed by FNS regulation, is permitted in the procurement of these products.

# Definition

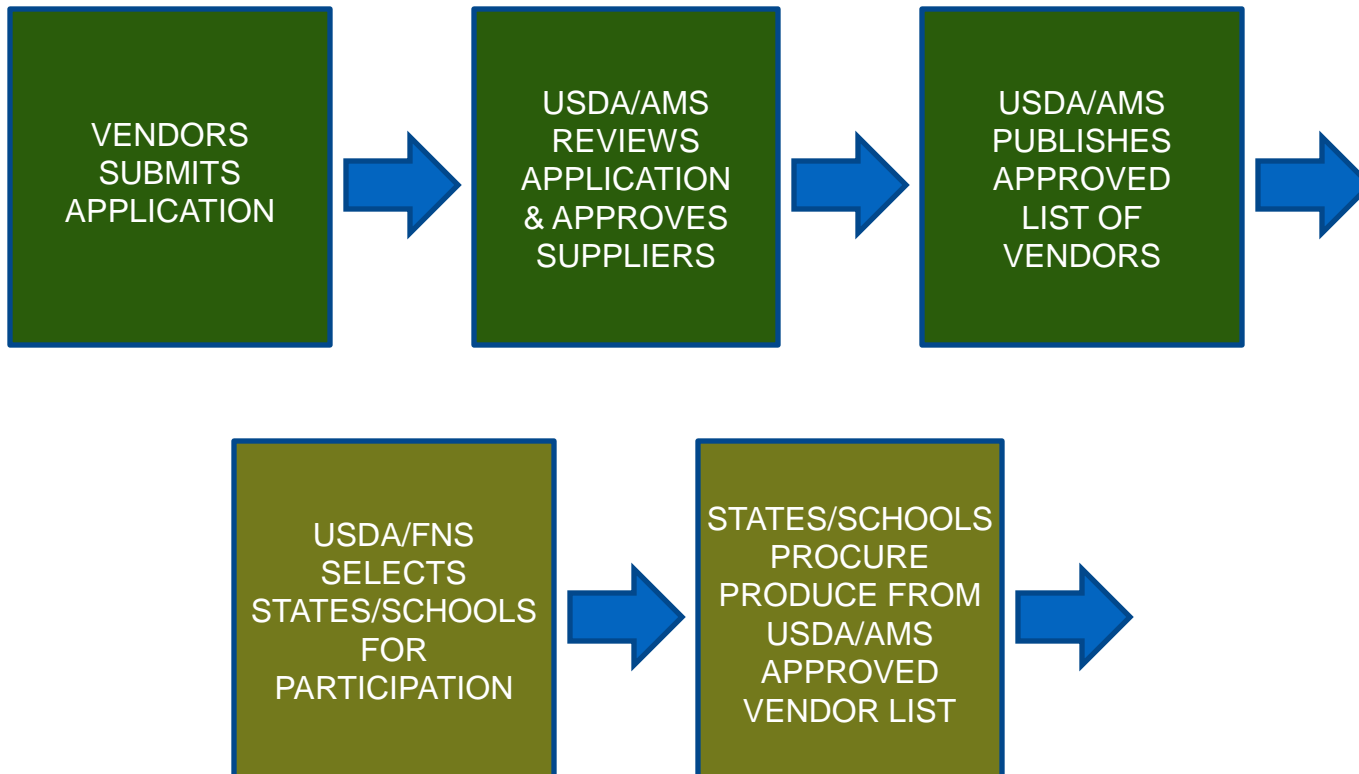
The fruits and vegetables procured in the pilot project may be considered “unprocessed” if their food handling and preservation techniques have not changed the inherent character of the fruit or vegetable.

The definition of unprocessed includes...

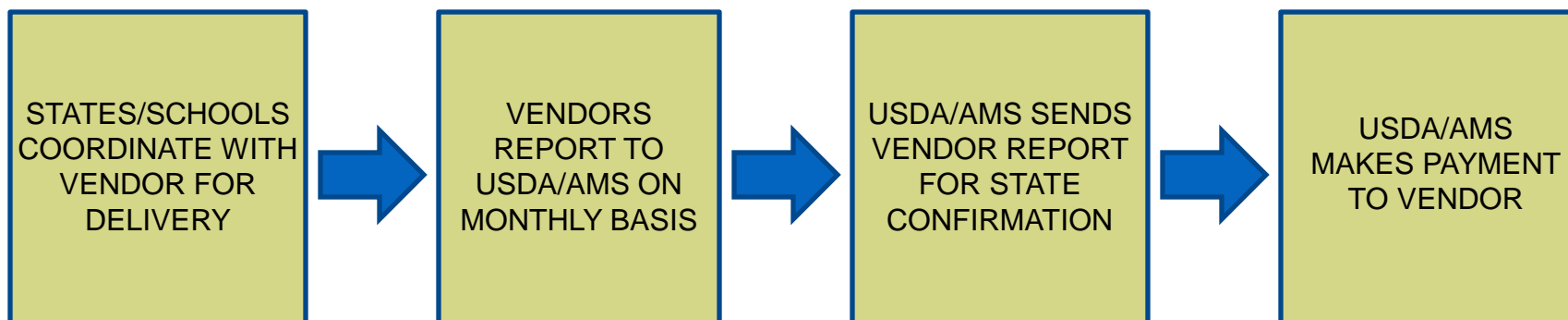
- cooling; refrigerating; freezing;
- size adjustment made by peeling, slicing, dicing, cutting, etc.;
- forming ground products into patties without any additives or fillers;
- drying/dehydration;
- washing;
- packaging, vacuum packing, and bagging;
- and the addition of ascorbic acid or other preservatives to prevent oxidation.

Canned and other heat-preserved fruits and vegetables are not considered “unprocessed.”

# The Pilot Program Process



# The Pilot Program Process, Continued...



# Requirements for Vendor Approval— Suppliers and Subcontractors

- Food Safety
  - GAP/GHP
  - GMP
  - HACCP
- Domestic Origin
- Food Defense
- PACA License

# Questions?

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# Thank you!



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