FOOD STORAGE & PREPARATION SERIES · FOD-03

FOD-03 — Bulk Buying for Food Storage

The First Bulk Buy Plan

Lowering the true cost of your fastest-moving staples — without buying more than you can store or use in time.

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

Bulk buying is buying a household's fastest-moving staples in larger quantities, at a lower true cost per unit, from a source that fits its cash, space, and consumption. It is not stockpiling whatever looks cheap, and not panic buying at a bigger store: a bulk purchase that outruns your storage space or your rate of use is waste, however good the price. It works inside the FOD-01 budget ceiling.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The deepest discounts come with the largest quantities, and that is exactly where households lose money.

A 50 lb sack can cost half as much per pound as a small bag and still be the more expensive purchase, once membership fees, repackaging, and the part that goes stale are counted. This course puts a number on each of those before you buy, so bulk pricing lowers what your household actually pays instead of what the shelf tag says.

The quantity you buy is the smallest of what the price justifies, what fits, and what you can use in time.

THE FIVE CHECKS

Fit	Club, distributor, or co-op — chosen by cash, space, consumption, and number of buyers.
True cost	Price per unit actually used, after fees, repackaging, and waste — judged against your price book's low.
Timing	Case lot sales and seasonal windows, with a purchase sized to bridge to the next one.
Splitting	Shared orders that reach minimums and pack sizes no single household could justify alone.
Capacity	Free storage space, usable months, and a named landing spot, confirmed before the order arrives.

COURSE LESSONS

1	**Where to Buy in Bulk.** Warehouse clubs, wholesale distributors, and buying co-ops, matched to what a household can actually carry.
2	**Unit Price Calculation and Comparison Shopping.** True cost per unit and per serving, and bulk pricing that isn't really a discount.
3	**Case Lot Sales and Seasonal Bulk Windows.** The recurring events where bulk pricing is strongest, and how much to buy at each.
4	**Splitting Bulk Purchases.** Dividing an order with family, neighbors, or a mutual aid group, fairly and safely.
5	**Storage Capacity Planning Before You Buy.** Free space, consumption rate, and where an order goes before it arrives.
6	**Capstone: Your First Bulk Buy Plan.** Every check in the course, run against one item, ending in a written purchase order.

BEFORE YOU START

Recommended first	FOD-01 Starting a Food Storage Program, for the budget ceiling and storage audit.
Recommended first	FOD-02 Food Inventory Management, whose tracker supplies your consumption rates.
You will need	Monthly use figures for your fastest-moving staples, and access to one bulk source.