



Lunch Line

April 2009

A Newsletter of the Food Distribution Program

Department of Administrative Services

Agriculture Secretary Announces Support for Domestic Nutrition Programs

WASHINGTON, March 31, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced USDA's intention to purchase turkey, pork, lamb, and walnut products for federal food nutrition assistance programs.

"These purchases will assist the turkey, pork, lamb and walnut sectors, which are currently struggling due to depressed market conditions," said Vilsack. "Today's announcement will help mitigate further downward prices, stabilize market conditions, stimulate the economy, and provide high quality, nutritious food to recipients of our nutrition programs."



FDP will send out more information on products and delivery dates as it becomes available from USDA.

DOD Authorization

Over one million dollars has been allocated to 40 Connecticut districts for SY '09. FDP has been informed by USDA that DOD needs to implement a new requirement for all users on all of their website ordering systems. This requires customers who currently have access to FFAVORS Web, to purchase a security clearance certificate. DOD has provided the names of three authorized vendors who would need to be contacted for the purchase of the certificates, at a cost of between \$125 and \$175 per user, per year. USDA views this proposed requirement as onerous, and one that puts the future of this program with DOD in jeopardy.

DOD has recognized this fact, and has secured a waiver of the requirement for the 2009-2010 school year, with a plan to work with FDP on finding an alternative solution. It does appear that a transition from the FFAVORS ordering system to the STORES ordering system will be required for SY 2009-10, and USDA will make additional information available on this subject as soon as it becomes available. However, we will be able to work through SY 2009-10 without placing a requirement on users to purchase a security certificate.

Say it ain't so, ECOS is going away?!

The new web-based supply-chain management (WB-SCM) system USDA plans to rollout to states and recipient agencies by February 2010, will replace the Electronic Commodity Ordering System (ECOS). Still in the design phase, the new paperless system is bound to be a dramatic change and will allow greater flexibility and efficiency. What does this mean for us here in Connecticut? It means that our office and the schools will be learning the new system at the same time. We will keep you posted on the progress of this project. If you are interested in learning more about the new WBSCM application, here's a link to the USDA website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/WBSCM/default.htm>

ECOS requests for SY 09/10: The FDP office is presently working on truck roll ups and will send an email out to everyone once this is completed.

Carry Over Balances at the Processor: On November 30, 2009, carry over balances at the processors will be transferred from the schools' accounts to the state's name, and the commodity will be made available to all schools. We will work with directors to ensure only carry over or excess inventory is removed from the schools' accounts.

In Other News

Tri-Agency Conference and SNACT Food & Commodity Show: The Department of Administrative Services, Department of Education, and Department of Agriculture will hold a Tri Agency Conference along with the SNACT Food & Commodity Food Show. The date is set for September 24, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. Stay tuned for more details.

Summer Program: Non-seamless sponsors, FDP will offer commodities that are overages from the warehouse annual physical inventory done at the end of June. Sponsors are required to pickup commodities at the warehouse by the second week in July. The pickup fee is \$2.20 per case.