

August 2008

Lunch Line

A Newsletter of the Food Distribution Program

Department of Administrative Services

Mark your Calendars! September 25, 2008 is the Growing and Learning Together School Nutrition Program Conference and SNACT Industry & Commodity Processing Food Show. The Department of Education, the Department of Administrative Services, the Department of Agriculture and the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut have teamed up to give you one educational conference with the SNACT Industry and Commodity Processing Show! The registration deadline is, September 15, 2008.

The food show is your only chance to see commodity end products for the school year. The deadline for registration is September 15th. [Click here to access the registration form.](#)

From USDA: The newly formatted and updated NSLP Commodity Fact Sheets with Commodity Codes have been published on the FD website at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/schfacts/>

Find Products at USDA Food & Commodity Connection: Take a look at this new website from USDA's, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). AMS has developed this website for you, the school food service professional. Find the website at www.foodconnect.usda.gov. Use the search engine to find commercial food products or USDA commodity products for your feeding programs. When you find a product – search for their brokers that serve your state. Also use the site to find distributors and food associations. Start using this website today and view the more than 6,000 products from more than 120+ vendors.

Department of Defense (DoD) Program: The Department of Administrative Services along with Pat Scott from the Department of Defense provided a training session at the SNACT Summer Conference, on the new FFAVORS web-based ordering system, along with an update on the DoD Program. The new FFAVORS system will make managing funds and orders under DoD Fresh much easier. The new vendor is a Rhode Island company, A.T. Siravo. Schools participating in the DoD program have received their access info to the new FFAVORS system and have the new delivery schedule. We are looking forward to a good year with great service and produce from the A.T. Siravo.

SY 08/09 Meal Rate: The meal rate for the period July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 is 20.75 cents.

Sysco delivery pricing changes for SY08: Per the contract award with Sysco, beginning July 1, 2008, the price for delivery is \$3.20 and pickup price is \$2.20. Storage charges will remain the same. Per the state contract, schools will pay invoices to the state contracted warehouse on a net 45 days basis after receipt of invoice. To read the contract please go to http://www.das.state.ct.us/Contracts/004_0033.pdf

4th Quarter Purchase info from USDA: Commodities continue to be purchased as addressed in the April 29 memo which stated in part... “due to higher prices we (USDA) have a higher than usual national entitlement obligation rate for SY08 at 99.9%, we (USDA) find ourselves with a significantly smaller purchase capability. Current projections limit FY08 4th Qtr Funds (used for entitlement purchases July 1 thru November 15 for Group A and July 1 thru October 30 for Group B) to only 33% of your total SY09 entitlements.”

To read the entire email [click here](#). USDA also announced at the SNA and ACDA ANC's the price of commodities is higher and less money is available which affects the purchasing power of funds in the 4th quarter. USDA has asked all state agencies to ensure that our Recipient Agencies are aware of and understand that commodities are being purchased but at higher prices and this effects how much product can be purchased with the remaining funds available in the 4th quarter of the Fiscal Year.

Consult Your Manual: The UPDATED Food Distribution Program (FDP) manual is online. Along with our Business Rules, the manual covers: Eligibility, Allocation and Ordering, Labeling, Accountability and Delivery, Transfer of Commodities, and Food Processing. To access the manual go to <http://www.das.state.ct.us/FedFood/Databases/FDPManual.pdf>

Food Communication Emails: Please read Food Communication emails for any changes or additional survey and commodity offerings throughout the school year.