



Cheese requests due in ECOS no later than COB February 16, 2007:

Because of the inclement weather on Feb. 14th, the cheese request deadline has been extended to Friday, Feb. 16th.

Changes to the SY07/08 USDA commodity requests in ECOS:

In order to get the best pricing available, USDA has made some changes. They will roll out orders as close to the purchase date as possible. For that reason, you can expect to receive the rest of the surveys over the next few months and each will come with its own due date. The first of the surveys containing vegetables and meats are available now and due back by March 1, 2007. Check out the due dates for each survey on the Marketplace under Spreadsheets. If you have any questions please call the FDP Office at 860-256-2910 or 1-866-551-1895.

Turkey: In order to better serve your needs, the USDA is working very closely with the procurement specialist and industry to participate in long-term contract for (A537) Turkey Roasts and (A529) Whole Frozen Turkey. This should enable the USDA to secure more competitive pricing and better meet growing demands for these turkey commodities. To take advantage of this new contracting method, we need your requests for these commodities in ECOS by February 19, 2007. All other Turkey commodity requests are due in ECOS by March 17, 2007. The USDA will attempt to purchase these items. However, given past attempts and the fact that the turkey market has not changed much, fulfillment of these requests is uncertain.

Pre-Surveys Released for Livestock and Poultry: Pre-surveys for Livestock, and Poultry have been released and are available in ECOS. These pre-surveys reflect USDA's School Entitlement ordering plans for SY 2008, which is July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. As a reminder, Pre-surveys are a mechanism that recipient agencies can use to submit their requisitions to the state office well before the round surveys are released.

Fruits and Vegetables: A summary of the SY2008 fruit and vegetable commodity offerings is available on the Marketplace [http://www.das.state.ct.us/FedFood/Databases/Survey Release Dates for SY07-08.xls](http://www.das.state.ct.us/FedFood/Databases/Survey%20Release%20Dates%20for%20SY07-08.xls)

Processing: Check out the Marketplace under "Pertinent Processing Information" for procurement guidance material, processors contact info and the value pass through they are approved for. If you need end product pricing information, you need to contact the processor or broker directly. In November 2004, the USDA eliminated pricing information on the End Product Data Schedules (EPDS), "because the pricing information on EPDS is misleading. Many Recipients believe that the State has sought competitive pricing in compliance with procurement regulations, when in reality, the processing agreement and instructions state the pricing represents the maximum amount a processor could charge. Not understanding this, many recipients could determine that processing donated foods is prohibitively expensive." To read the USDA Policy Memo in its entirety, click on http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/policymemo/pmfd038_SP-EPDS-PricingInfo.pdf

RA Commodity Processing Handbook available on the Marketplace:

[http://www.das.state.ct.us/FedFood/ProcessedFoods/RACommodity Handbook.pdf](http://www.das.state.ct.us/FedFood/ProcessedFoods/RACommodityHandbook.pdf)

The American Commodity Distribution Association has put together a RA Commodity Processing Handbook. This handbook is designed and intended to assist recipient agencies by providing guidance for commodity processing. The Food Distribution Program has gone through several changes in recent years allowing more cost savings and affiances to school districts and other entities receiving USDA donated foods.

Commodity Fact Sheets:

FNS is in the process of revising all of the commodity fact sheets for NSLP. They will have a new look, as well as capture nutrition information that is not currently listed, such as trans fats. At this point... FNS is confirming the nutrient content and all the other information on the fact sheets. Please stay tuned, as they hope to launch the updated NSLP fact sheets in the near future.

Important Reminder regarding Net Off Invoice:

If you are participating in Net Off Invoice (NOI) please remember, sales verification is required by the federal government.

Rebates:

Federal regulation 250.30 states, refund applications shall be submitted within 30 days from the end of the purchase month.

Tri-Agency Conference:

The Department of Administrative Services, Department of Education, and Department of Agriculture will be having a Tri Agency conference. The date is tentatively set for September 28, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. Stay tuned for more details.

DoD Program:

Four hundred thirty seven thousand dollars has been allocated to forty-one districts for SY 08.

Friendly Reminder:

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