

Lunch Line

A Newsletter of the Food Distribution Program

Department of Administrative Services

November 2010

WBSCM Update: USDA has announced the newest Web Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) go-live date will be November 30, 2010. In anticipation of go-live, a WBSCM training is scheduled for December 1, 2010 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT. Registration deadline is November 23.

ALL COMMODITIES MUST BE OUT OF SYSCO BY JUNE 30, 2011: Because there are many changes with the conversion to WBSCM, all commodities must be out of Sysco at the end of this school year. Any commodities left at Sysco will be transferred out of your account on June 30 and will be donated to the Department of Correction.

Carry Over Balances: On November 30, carry over balances at the processors will be transferred from the school accounts to the state's name and the commodity will be made available to all schools. Schools should reference USDA policy (FD-040, January 12, 2005 Commodity Inventory Reduction at Further Processors) for when inventory draw down occurs in relation to the different value pass through methods. Since there may be a delay in inventory draw down at the processor end, please keep this in mind when reviewing inventory balances.

Department of Defense Program: On November 30, FDP will assess the entitlement expenditures for all participating districts. For districts with little or no entitlement dollar expenditure, FDP will re-allocate available entitlement dollars to other participating school districts.

USDA Commodity Shipment Delays: There've been lots of problems this year with deliveries. We'll keep you posted on any changes.

Lower Sodium Specifications for Process and Blended Cheese: FNS continues to make improvements in all of its USDA Foods to align them with the most current Dietary Guidelines for Americans. One of the improvements slated for School Year 2012 is to reduce the sodium levels in process and blended cheeses. USDA currently buys process cheese that contains 422 mg per ounce and blended cheese that contains 450 mg per ounce.

To reach this goal, FNS partnered with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to encourage cheese manufacturers to formulate cheeses with lower sodium levels. Last month, FSA conducted market research through a Request for Information/Sources Sought Notice to determine what types of reduced sodium cheeses were available commercially. FSA asked cheese suppliers to submit their reduced sodium specifications and describe how the reduction would impact the cost, quality, and food safety of the products. As a result sodium levels will be reduced from as much as 450 milligrams per serving to between 200 and 300 milligrams per 1 ounce serving.

Distribution of USDA Commodities: The State of Connecticut has awarded the food contract to Sysco CT. The contract is a three year contract with the possibility of two, three year extensions. The USDA monthly delivery price is \$3.50 per case and \$2.50 per case for pick up, and no storage charges will be assessed during the school year (7/1 – 6/30). If a district chooses to store commodities for the months of July and August, a per case storage of \$.90 for frozen, \$.80 for refrigerated, and \$.70 for dry for each month.

Here's a link to the contract: http://www.biznet.ct.gov/SCP_Documents/Results/8802/009_0330.pdf

Bidding and Procurement Guidance: For information on bidding commercial and commodities, go to the Market Place website: http://www.das.state.ct.us/FedFood/bidding_seminar.htm