

Lunch Line

A Newsletter of the Food Distribution Program

Department of Administrative Services

March 2011

New DAS Website and Web Address: DAS has expanded our web-based services to allow users to be able to register to receive state examination and job “e-alerts”, register to receive email notices of business opportunities with the state, and even to receive notices on upcoming vehicle and surplus property auctions.

FDP website link is: <http://das.ct.gov/cr1.aspx?page=29>

WBSCM Update: Web Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) training will be held in mid April at several locations. If you haven’t signed up yet, or created a WBSCM id, please contact our office. **Because of the WBSCM changes** (for this school year only) all commodities must be out of Sysco on the last delivery. Any commodities left in the warehouse will be transferred out of the school account.

Estimated Per Meal Rate for SY 2012: The estimated per meal rate is \$.2025

USDA Commodity Shipment Delays: There have been a few 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.

Food Service Management Companies Crediting for the Value of Commodities: The November 15 file is to be used for crediting for the value of commodities. Below are links to the USDA November 15 file. This should be used when providing the district with the USDA Commodity purchase prices for SY 11 for crediting for the value of USDA Commodity Foods received. The cheese pricing discounts for Rebates/Fee For Service or Net Off Invoice may be different than the USDA purchase price for the cheese. Both values must be used, the USDA purchase price, which you will find on the Nov 15 file, and the FNS Cheese Pricing for SY 11 for commodity processing discounts for the value of the commodity.

Commodity File Report for SY 11 http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/pcims/pricing/sy11_Nov15-CommodityFile09.pdf

Cheese Discount price for processing is \$1.6065, here’s a link to the USDA Memo: http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/pcims/pricing/sy11_cheese-nfdmpricing.pdf

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://das.ct.gov/FedFood/bidding_seminar.htm