

Lunch Line

November 2007

A Newsletter of the Food Distribution Program

Department of Administrative Services

ECOS Training:

The FDP Office is offering ECOS training for new directors and those that feel they need a refresher. The training sessions will be held on December 4, 2007 and December 5, 2007 at the State Office Building, Room 538, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford. There will be both morning and afternoon sessions. The morning sessions will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and the afternoon sessions will be from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There are a limited number of computers in the training room so please indicate which class you wish to attend and please RSVP to Dan.Sadowski@ct.gov by November 30, 2007.

Tri-Agency Conference: The Department of Administrative Services, Department of Education, and the State Department of Agriculture will be having a Tri Agency conference. The date is tentatively set for September 25, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. Stay tuned for more details.

School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT) Fall Industry Buying & Commodity Processing Show: The Commodity Processing Food Show and the SNACT Fall Industry Buying Show will be on September 25, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell. Stay tuned for more details.

Summer Feeding 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 pick up commodities at the warehouse by the second week in July. The pick up fee is \$2.10 per case.

USDA Announces Cheese Pricing for SY 2009:

The average price for all commodity cheese in SY 2009 is \$1.4695.

Peach Cups & Strawberry Cups:

There have been inquiries on the date stamp located on the frozen fruit cups.

USDA has verified that this date is a production/pack date on the bottom. NOT the expiration date.

Raisins:

USDA has alerted the FDP that schools can expect to receive raisins this year that are of mixed color (amber to dark brown). Industry standards and practices are changing. Grapes dried for the raisin industry are being harvested more rapidly due to increased labor costs, so there is less time in the sun to allow them to turn completely dark. This, along with newer equipment, has sped up the harvesting process, leading to the mixed raisin color as the new industry trend. The color variation is the result of a natural condition, and has nothing to do with the quality of the raisin, that remains unchanged.

Swap Post: In order to receive full truckloads of commodities delivered to the warehouse for SY07/08, the FDP Office has filled trucks in the State of Connecticut's name. You will find these items on the Market Place under Swap Post. To view the items available click on the link below. These items will be on a first come first serve basis with preference given to schools that have not used their entire PAL.

http://www.das.state.ct.us/FedFood/News/SwapPost/ECAFS_SwapPost.asp

Consult Your Manual: The 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/FDP_Manual.pdf