



School Nutrition Program Conference SNACT Industry and Commodity Processing Food Show

When: September 28, 8am – 5pm
Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT
Admission to the Conference: \$39
Free Admission to the Food Show

REGISTER TODAY AT: 860-256-2910

Stop by the Food Show noon – 5pm. This is the one and only opportunity to see what's new in Commodity Processing!

Conference Target Audience:

School Food Service Directors, Managers, Determining Officials, and Verifying Officials. Business Managers who are targeted for a CRE Administrative Review of the National School Lunch Program may also attend. (Note: Preparing for a CRE Administrative Review will be covered during this conference).

Areas to be Covered:

- Preparing for a **CRE Administrative Review**. (A must for sponsors who will have a CRE Administrative Review during school year 2007-2008).
- Verification and Ameliorative Action Review
- Accommodating Special Dietary Needs
- Common Problems with School Meals Initiative
- Connecticut Farm-to-School Programs
- What's happening with the Commodity Program
- Common Problems with Free and Reduced Price Meal Application Processing
- Food Safety and Sanitation
- Promoting Your Programs Using the Media

Questions?

Registration questions contact:
Linda Hubeny at 860-256-2910

Food Show questions contact:
Cindy Brooks at 203-888-4513

Content questions contact:

Teri Dandeneau at teri.dandeneau@ct.gov or
RoseAnna Holliday at roseanna.holliday@ct.gov

Sysco delivery pricing changes for SY08

Per the contract award with Sysco, that began July 1, 2007, the price for delivery is \$3.10 and pickup price is \$2.10. Storage charges will remain the same. To read the contract please click on the attached link www.das.state.ct.us/Contracts/004_0033.pdf

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.

The manual is in PDF format so you will need Adobe Acrobat to view it. You can download the software at www.adobe.com.

"It's important to have the information available to all our customers," said Program Director Linda Hubeny. "It covers a lot of information about our program, why we are here and how the program operates."

To access the manual, [click here](#) while still online.

CHEESE UPDATE:

USDA is in search of a way to ensure that states receive commodity cheese for school year 08/09.

Industry has informed USDA they were unable to get the quantity and best price of cheese because of the time schedule under which we are currently operating. In order for USDA to purchase commodity cheese, maximize their buying power, and avoid what's happening this year with mozzarella orders, USDA needs to enter the market when they can be competitive. That means that USDA needs to begin to change their purchase cycle to a calendar year basis.

What does this mean for states? For the transition, mozzarella cheese order projections for July through December 2008 needed to be entered in ECOS by September 7, 2007.

FDP realized that this is not an easy undertaking for schools to enter their orders so far in advance, and in such a tight turn around time, so FDP reviewed the trends for school requests over the last two years and entered requests in ECOS at the state level. The requests are the best estimate of how much, where, and when schools might need the cheese. USDA needs this data in the system to generate solicitations for the long-term contracts, to establish minimum and maximum quantities and to generate contracts.

Schools will be asked to place requests in ECOS in November for July – December 2008 for mozzarella. Please keep in mind that if the market trend continues, this approach may be required for all cheese commodity codes. For future consideration, schools will probably enter requests in January 2008 for calendar year 2009 (Jan - Dec 2009 deliveries) mozzarella cheese product surveys.

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 site 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 the 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. To register for this free service go to www.foodconnect.usda.gov, click on the registration guide on the front page of the site and follow the registration directions.

From USDA

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

Please note that the location of these fact sheets on the FD website has moved and that you will need to update your bookmarks, as well as the links on your state websites, to reflect this change in site location. If you have any questions or comments, please email them to our Program Support Branch at fdd-psb@fns.usda.gov and thanks for visiting our site!