

Training and USDA Foods Further Processing Show

SAVE THE DATE!!

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

8:00 am to 4:00 pm at The Aqua Turf
55 Mulberry St., Plantsville, CT

Come and join the Department of Administrative Services and the Department of Education for a training on proper procurement presented by national speakers, Chef Cyndie Story and Stacy Sagowitz, R.D, followed by the USDA Foods Processing Food Show. Many USDA Further Processors and brokers will be on-hand to show their products for SY 14/15.

You will leave the Procurement Training and Food Show with the tools you need to create a food bid and/or RFP!

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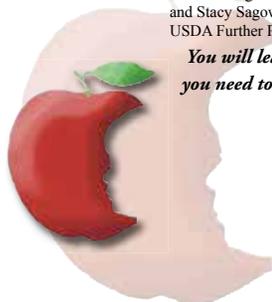
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – 12:45 a.m. Training

1:00 p.m – 4:00 p.m. USDA Foods Further Processing

Food Show

Registration and meeting details will follow soon.



USDA Foods Entitlement: USDA has completed the SY 2012/13 reconciliation in Web Supply Chain Management (WBSCM). The school year 2013/14 state's entitlement has an anticipated deficit of \$-1.9 million. We won't know this school year's final balance until November 2014. The anticipated deficit isn't great, but it's not as bad as we were expecting. Our plan is to ride out the rest of the school year with the deficit. USDA has agreed to allow us to do this as long as the nation's entitlement doesn't go into a deficit, which they don't expect happening. We'll be using SY 2012/13 meal counts for next school year and we will use USDA's meal reimbursement rate minus the 12% provision. We expect using the low meal counts and the lower reimbursement rate will cover this school year's anticipated deficit. We'll reopen the WBSCM catalog in 2014 if we have money left over in November 2014, after USDA's reconciliation.

USDA Foods Available List: The USDA Foods Available list is on our website. Take a look- if there's something on the list that you're interested in let us know and if there's enough interest we'll put it on the catalog. Remember, USDA has truckload requirements so there's no guarantee you'll receive the item even if it makes the catalog. Here's a link: <http://das.ct.gov/images/1090/USDA%20Foods%20Available%20SY14-15.pdf>

Department of Defense (DoD) Program: The annual letter about the DoD Program will be coming out soon. Make sure to read it carefully and send in your request to participate by the deadline! We won't cap anyone's requests but remember, your entitlement is going to be lower than in years past because of the state's entitlement deficit and the lower meal counts.

Carryover Balances at the Processor: On November 30th, carryover balances at the processors were transferred from the schools' 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: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pmfd040_SP-FurtherProcessorsInventory.pdf 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.

WBSCM Orders for SY 2014/15: USDA has changed the due dates for ordering to better serve our customers. They found having the requests way in advance didn't necessarily ensure purchases. Based on some communication we've had with USDA we expect the catalog to be open mid January 2014. Schools will have orders due in WBSCM by April 1, 2014. We'll send out an email with all the details as soon as the catalog is open.

Administrative Review: Is your district scheduled for an Administrative Review by the State of Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE)? Give us a call at 860-713-5147 or email me at Linda.Hubeny@CT.GOV We can come to your school for a technical assistance meeting on properly utilizing the USDA Foods Program.

ALL USDA FOODS MUST BE OUT OF SYSCO BY JUNE 30, 2014: The FDP Office recommends school districts receive all USDA Foods in the school year they are ordered. USDA Foods left in the warehouse over the summer may be forfeited by the school district and will be subject to storage fees.

Contracting with a Food Service Management Company (FSMC) - Crediting for the Value of Commodities Received: Food Service Management Companies shall use the following when crediting school districts for the value of USDA Foods (formerly known as commodities). We have tried to make your jobs a little easier. The Shipping and Billing Reports on the Market Place website are now showing the Nov. 15th file price. No more additional calculations, just provide the Shipping and Billing Report to the district! School districts shall use this information to verify they are receiving the proper credits for the value of USDA Foods received.

Below are links to the USDA November 15th file. This shall be used when providing the district with the USDA Foods purchase prices for SY 14 for crediting for the value of USDA 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 shall be considered, the USDA purchase price, which you will find on the Nov 15th file, and the FNS Cheese Pricing for SY 14 for USDA Foods processing discounts for the value of USDA Foods.

USDA Foods File Report for SY 14: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Average_Price_File_for_Processors_for_SY_2014%284%29.xlsm

The average price for SY 2014 is \$1.7117 for mozzarella and \$1.8003 for all other cheese. Here's a link to the USDA Memo: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/SY_2014_Cheese_Price_Explanation4.docx

There have been some Cheese Code changes, here's a link to the USDA changes: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/CY_2013_Cheese_Code_Changes.docx

If a portion of the commodity dollars have been allocated to the DoD Program, the value of the produce at time of purchase by DoD is to be credited to the district.

For more information on the regulation see USDA Policy Memo FD-80: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/pmfd080rev_NSLP-SFSP-CACFP_DonatedFoodswithFSMCsJan2011.pdf

WBSCM Manual: USDA has made some slight changes to the WBSCM Login Screen and the WBSCM website. You probably won't need the new manual, but we have a revised version just in case you need it. The Web Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) Manual is available on-line: <http://das.ct.gov/FedFood/Home/FINAL%20WBSCM%20RA%20Manual%20Sept%2020%202012.ppt>