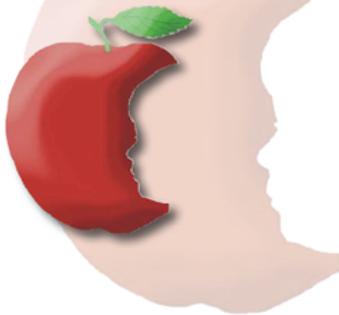


SAVE THE DATE!!
Thursday, March 5, 2015
8:00 am to 4:00 pm at The Aqua Turf
55 Mulberry St., Plantsville, CT

Come join the Department of Administrative Services and the Department of Education for training followed by the USDA Foods Processing Food Show. Many USDA Further Processors and brokers will be on-hand to show their products for School Year 2015/16.



Thursday, March 5, 2015

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Training

12:30 p.m – 3:30 p.m. Food Show

Registration and meeting details will follow soon.

Director Update: USDA has completed the School Year (SY) 2013/14 reconciliation in Web Supply Chain Management (WBSCM). The state's SY 2013/14 entitlement had a deficit of \$1.9 million. This was the largest deficit our program has seen for as long as I can remember. The reason was the reduction in meal counts CT schools had for SY 2012/13 and increased food prices USDA paid for USDA Foods purchased. The meal counts were lower again for SY 2013/14 and food costs are still on the rise, however, as of today, the state's anticipated entitlement balance for SY 2014/15 is \$981,900. There are two reasons we have almost \$1 million; one is because many USDA Foods weren't purchased by USDA for a variety of reasons including lack of availability and no vendor responses. The second is because the USDA Foods Reimbursement Rate for SY 2014/15 is an unprecedented effective rate of .3044 cents. Happy Holidays!

String Cheese: If you're having issues with them becoming moldy, please let our office know right away.

Unseasoned chicken strips pilot: We are ordering a truck for March, check the Swap Post.

USDA Foods Fact Sheets: USDA is in the process of updating the Fact Sheets, including changing the name to Product Sheets. USDA recognizes the importance of accurate nutrition labels for USDA Foods, and they will include this information on the updated Product Sheets. Here's a link to the Fact Sheets website: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/nslp-usda-foods-fact-sheets>

Unprocessed Produce Pilot: CT has been approved for the pilot! We will provide more information as soon as it becomes available. [Read the USDA Press Release here.](#)

Start with Half a Cup: (SWHAC) committee is a collaboration of Connecticut's finest farm to school experts and advocates. The project's focus is to inspire, inform, build support and increase collaborative work for the Farm to School and the Know Your Farmer Know Your Food initiative. There is a great toolkit with a variety of useful material to use in your cafeteria and in the classroom. You'll find numerous great nutrition education resources! Check it out today! <http://swhac.ct.gov>

more...

High Protein Yogurt Pilot: CT has selected school districts participating in a high protein yogurt pilot; some of the state's SY 2014/15 entitlement balance has been allocated to the yogurt pilot. The pilot schools will be receiving the first truckloads in January 2015. If the pilot is successful, we will open the yogurt pilot to more school districts for SY 2015/16.

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 will 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 don't cap entitlement allocations, however, be aware the DoD vendor, AT Siravo, isn't required to increase delivery locations by DoD so you may not have additional drops even though you increase entitlement to the DoD Program.

Carryover Balances at the Processor: On November 30, carryover balances at the processors were transferred from the schools' accounts to the state's account and the commodity will be made available to all school districts. School districts 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.

Important Reminder regarding Net Off Invoice: If you are participating in Net Off Invoice (NOI) please remember, sales verification is required by the federal government.

Rebates: Federal regulation 250.30 states, refund applications shall be submitted within 30 days from the end of the purchase month.

WBSCM Orders for SY 2015/16: USDA has changed the due dates for ordering to better serve our customers. They found having the requests way in advance of purchase didn't necessarily ensure vendor responses. Based on some communication we've had with USDA we expect the catalog to be open in early 2015. The due date for requests in WBSCM will be determined by the date USDA opens the catalogs. We'll send out an email with all the details as soon as the catalog is open.

Technical Assistance: 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 the USDA Foods Program.

ALL USDA FOODS MUST BE OUT OF SYSCO BY JUNE 30, 2015: 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. 15 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 15 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 15 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 15: http://das.ct.gov/images/1090/SY14_15_Novemeber_15_file.pdf

If a portion of the USDA Foods entitlement has 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: The Web Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) Manual is available online: <http://das.ct.gov/FedFood/Home/FINAL%20WBSCM%20RA%20Manual%20Sept%2020%202012.ppt>