

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!

Tuesday, March 25, 2014

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.

March 25, 2014 - Training and USDA Foods Further Processing Show: Remember to register for the Procurement training that is sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services and the Connecticut State Department of Education.

This training will be held in conjunction with the USDA Foods Processing Food Show. The Food Show will have some 50 additional processors and brokers showing finished products using USDA Foods. The cost is \$20 which is an allowable school food service program expense. Therefore, school food authorities (SFAs) can use funds from their school food service accounts to pay for attending this training.

It is important to note that the United States Department of Agriculture will be requiring - in the near future - state agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) procurement practices of all SFAs (public, nonprofit private, and RCCIs) participating in the school CNPs. This includes those districts that are using purchasing cooperatives and this workshop will provide valuable information to help ensure that successful procurement practices are in place.

For more details and questions contact our office at 860-713-5147.

Carryover Balances at the Processor:

We've heard from some school food service professionals that brokers are informing their customers there are "Bonus" commodities available. The carryover balances recovered from school districts that didn't use their commodities ARE NOT bonus. Only believe there's "Bonus" available when our office notifies you. It's been a very tough year and we're still in a deficit so we will be holding any carryover balances in the state's account unless notified, with a plan on using the pounds, by the school food service professional we took the pounds from. We will use any carryover pounds in the state's account to offset next school year's orders to help reduce the deficit.

Purdue announces a "Pause" for Kings

Delight: Late November, Perdue notified our office that King's Delight will not be processing USDA Foods during SY 2014-2015. They plan to step back to do some product realignments. Here's a link to their letter: <http://das.ct.gov/images/1090/Perdue%20K-12%20Transition.pdf>

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.

WBSCM Training: The State of Connecticut Food Distribution Program will be holding training sessions in March 2014. The main focus of the training will be ordering and reporting in WBSCM. The training will be held at the State Office Building 165 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106. Classroom space is limited due to computer availability. Please sign up by email to Dan.Sadowski@ct.gov no later than February 14, 2014, with the name of the person attending, district name, email address, phone number, first and second date and time preference. Directions to the training facility will be provided with your confirmation.

The dates, times are as follows:

March 11, 2014 – Hartford (State Office Building) 8:30–10:30 - No P.M. Session

March 12, 2014 – Hartford (State Office Building) 8:30–10:30 and 12:30–2:30

March 13, 2014 – Hartford (State Office Building) 8:30–10:30 and 12:30–2:30

WBSCM Orders for SY 2014/15: USDA has changed the due dates for ordering to better serve our customers. They found having the requests in advance didn't necessarily ensure purchases. We'll be opening the catalog soon and will send out notification when it's completed. Schools will have orders due in WBSCM by April 1, 2014.

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 to discuss the proper utilization of USDA Foods Program.

Department of Defense (DoD) Program: Have the apples you received in recent deliveries looked very small, maybe even too small? Many have contacted our office with concerns about the apples and their sizes. DAS FDP worked with a few school food service professionals, we used the food buying guide, and we determined the apples meet the ½ cup requirements. Even the really little apples were well over 2 oz whole and when they were cut up, they overflowed the 4 oz cups.

Canned Diced Peaches: Our office has received several complaints about the canned peaches being “grey and nasty.” We've determined these peaches aren't from the USDA Foods Program. School districts are purchasing the peaches commercially and are a Northeast brand from China. Concerns should be addressed with the commercial distributor they were purchased from. Remember, there's a US Grown regulation, commercially purchased products should be US Grown when available.



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.

We've updated this file and it's now available directly on our website: USDA Foods File Report for SY 14: <http://das.ct.gov/images/1090/SY13-14-Novemeber%2015%20file.xls>

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>