

## The School Lunch Tray: March 9, 2022

Dear School Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs:

The School Lunch Tray contains the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) weekly email notifications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs. This week's topics are listed below.

### **Action Items**

- USDA Foods Ordering for School Year 2022-23 Closes Tomorrow: March 10, 2022
- USDA Foods Mozzarella String Cheese: Order Deadline is March 11, 2022
- Donations and Orders of Excess USDA Foods for March 2022: Deadline March 18, 2022

### **Need to Know**

- Keeping Track of USDA Foods Orders: Running Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) Reports
- New Vendor Information for USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Congressional Flexibility Extended through March 11, 2022: Low-Fat (1%) Flavored Milk in the National School Lunch program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Ban on Purchase of Raw or Processed Poultry Products Imported from China
- USDA Memo SP 04-2022 and CACFP 04-2022: Question and Answer Guidance on the Final Rule Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Effective July 1, 2022
- USDA Memo SP 05-2022: Meal Requirements Under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Questions and Answers for Program Operators Updated to Support the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Effective July 1, 2022
- USDA Webinar Recordings Available: Transitional Standards for Milk, Sodium, and Whole Grains
- Resource Roundup: It's More than a Meal Application

### **Good to Know**

- Today is Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) Day
- New USDA Resource: Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast
- Now Available: Team Nutrition Webinars Captioned in Spanish
- Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline March 31, 2022

Please review and share with appropriate staff members. For previous versions of the School Lunch Tray, visit the CSDE's [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage.

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### Action Items

#### USDA Foods Ordering for School Year 2022-23 Closes Tomorrow: March 10, 2022

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) catalog and Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) bonus catalog will each close tomorrow, **Thursday, March 10, 2022**. This is the last opportunity to order from these catalogs. For assistance with placing orders, please review the [Instructions for Placing USDA Foods Orders for School Year 2022-2023](#).

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#### USDA Foods Mozzarella String Cheese: Order Deadline is March 11, 2022

All remaining USDA Foods string cheese (material code 110396) must be ordered by **Friday, March 11, 2022**, for delivery before March 22, 2022, or product may be moved to another district. This cheese has a 90-day shelf life and was packed on December 23, 2022. There are no individual expiration dates on the cheese sticks. They may be frozen for later use.

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#### Donations and Orders of Excess USDA Foods for March 2022: Deadline March 18, 2022

It's time for Recipient Agencies (RAs) to review **all** inventory on the HPC allocation report. RAs should also be reviewing the Requisition Status Report in Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) to see if any additional items are coming into the HPC warehouse, since bonus items have yet to be delivered. RAs that are not able to take delivery of all items before the last scheduled delivery in June **must** donate any excess food.

Only three to four more deliveries will occur for the remainder of this school year. Any RA with extra USDA Foods should complete a [Request to Donate Excess USDA Foods Form](#). The Connecticut Food Distribution Program (FDP) team will try to redistribute those items to RAs that can use them this school year. Until another RA accepts transfer of the product, those items remain in your inventory. If your district has 50% or more of remaining inventory at the HPC warehouse, the FDP team will **not**

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process requests to order excess USDA Foods unless you first submit a *Request to Donate USDA Foods Form*.

The ordering deadline for March excess USDA Foods orders is **Friday, March 18, 2022**. The FDP team will continue to accept USDA Foods donation forms indefinitely.

**All RAs** should complete the following steps.

1. Review remaining inventory at HPC from your most recent allocation report. Check your Requisition Status Report in WBSCM to determine if items are still coming in. **Note:** Items cannot be donated until they are physically in the HPC warehouse. However, to fully forecast usage, you should account for product both in the state warehouse and pending deliveries.
2. **If over 50% of your inventory remains at the HPC warehouse**, you must submit a [\*Request to Donate Excess USDA Foods Form\*](#) for any items for which you cannot accept delivery by the end of the school year. If you plan on using all remaining inventory, e-mail Sybil Walton at [walton@ctserc.org](mailto:walton@ctserc.org). **RAs with more than 50% of inventory remaining at the state warehouse that skip this step will not have their *Request to Order USDA Foods Form* processed.**
3. Submit orders for excess USDA Foods using the [\*Request to Order USDA Foods Form\*](#).
  - There is a 12-case minimum for each request. Cases can include different material codes. For example, a RA could order four cases of cheese and eight cases of applesauce (12 cases total).
  - The FDP will not process orders of less than 12 cases, or orders received after March 18, 2022.
  - The FDP will not process orders for RAs with greater than 50% of their inventory remaining at the state warehouse without completing step 2 first.
  - If orders exceed the available product, the FDP will randomize the orders. RAs might receive all, some, or none of their order based on availability and order randomization. The FDP will notify RAs by e-mail if any requests cannot be filled.
  - A receipt will be provided for products received. The receipt will indicate the total number of cases being transferred into the RA's account, and the average value per case of received items. These items will be entitlement free, but the HPC delivery fee of \$4.50 per case still applies. Please keep these receipts for your records as the CT FDP will not keep these on file. These transfers should become available on the RA's HPC allocation reports within one month.

**Note:** To submit a request, RAs must have a current Direct Delivery account with HPC. A USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable account is not the same as a Direct Delivery account. If you do not have a Direct Delivery account with HPC but would like to order the available USDA Foods, please contact the [FDP staff](#) for assistance.

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## Need to Know

### Keeping Track of USDA Foods Orders: Running Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) Reports

With the addition of COVID-related funding, tracking USDA Foods is becoming more complicated. There are regular NSLP orders, bonus NSLP orders, and CCC bonus orders in WBSCM. All orders for USDA Foods should be considered **requests**. The Connecticut FDP must often adjust RA requests to complete a full truck for each material code.

RAs should continue to monitor WBSCM after placing requests, as most orders will change. For example, the number of cases ordered could be adjusted up or down, the delivery date could change, or the entire order could be canceled. The FDP team communicates changes in the School Lunch Tray. However, RAs should be running the Requisition Status Report **monthly** until the product is either in the “Purchased” or “Canceled” status (refer to example below).

Material	Material Desc.	Prod. Hierarchy	Requested Del. Date	Program	Entitlement/Bonus Ind	Requested Qty.	Sales Unit	Net Dollar Value	Sales Order #	Sales Order Item #	Sales Order Status
100373	BEANS GREAT NORTHERN CAN-6/10	VEGETABLES/BEANS/CANNED	4/15/2022	NSLP	BONUS-SY22	40.000	CS	956.61	5000749409	100	Purchased
100125	TURKEY ROASTS FRZ CTN-32-48 LB	POULTRY/EGGS/TURKEY/FROZEN	9/15/2021	NSLP	ENTITLE-SY22	-2.000	CS	-254.72		0	

For this school year, NSLP items and bonus items will be shown on this report. NSLP items will decrease your entitlement, but bonus items are entitlement free. The example below shows bonus and entitlement purchases.

Material	Material Desc.	Prod. Hierarchy	Requested Del. Date	Program	Entitlement/Bonus Ind	Requested Qty.	Sales Unit	Net Dollar Value	Sales Order #	Sales Order Item #	Sales Order Status
100373	BEANS GREAT NORTHERN CAN-6/10	VEGETABLES/BEANS/CANNED	4/15/2022	NSLP	BONUS-SY22	40.000	CS	956.61	5000749409	100	Purchased
100125	TURKEY ROASTS FRZ CTN-32-48 LB	POULTRY/EGGS/TURKEY/FROZEN	9/15/2021	NSLP	ENTITLE-SY22	-2.000	CS	-254.72		0	

When running the Requisition Status Report for next year, leave the “Program” field blank to capture all orders (regular NSLP, bonus NSLP, and CCC bonus orders).

The screenshot shows the 'Reports' section of the WBSCM system. The 'Requisition Status Report' is selected, and the 'Input Criteria' section is visible. The 'Program' field is highlighted in yellow and is currently blank. Other fields include 'Req. Delivery Date' (07/01/2022 to 06/30/2023), 'Material', 'Sold-To Party' (4007096), 'Ship-To Party', 'Region', 'Req/Redist. Number', and 'Req/Redist. Doc. Type'. The interface includes navigation tabs (Home, Operations, Admin, Reports, Help) and a sidebar with various report options.

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You can also run both years together by listing the Required Delivery date as 07/01/2021 to 06/30/2023.

When running your **Entitlement Bonus Summary Report**, the value of ordered bonus items will be reflected under the “Bonus Order Total” (refer to example below).

### Entitlement/Bonus Summary Report

Program	Year	Beg. Ent. Balance	DOD Fresh Amount	Ent. Order Total	Ent. Pounds	Ending Balance	Bonus Order Total	Bonus Pounds
NSLP	2022	\$69,267	\$23,000	\$56,053	38,742	\$9,787-	\$1,559	705

For detailed instructions on running reports, refer to the FDP’s [WBSCM Training Guide](#) or contact WBSCM directly with any additional questions at [WBSCM.servicedesk@CACI.com](mailto:WBSCM.servicedesk@CACI.com) or 1-877-WBSCM-4U or 877-927-2648. The [FDP](#) staff are also available to answer questions.

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### New Vendor Information for USDA Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

Connecticut's USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program has a new vendor:

Frank Gargiulo & Son, Inc.  
535 Sweetland Avenue  
Hillside, NJ 07205

This is a federally awarded contract between the USDA, The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) of the DoD, and the vendor, Gargiulo & Sons. This contract will be replacing the current contract with HPC. The information provided addresses **only** the federal USDA DoD Fresh contract.

#### Contract Terms

- Orders placed in FFAVORS after April 2, 2022, will be going to Frank Gargiulo & Sons, Inc. A transition plan is being worked out and some deliveries will start the following week, April 11, 2022.
- Deliveries will be weekly and Gargiulo & Sons will develop a schedule over the next few weeks.
- Gargiulo & Sons will be contacting RAs directly to communicate the new delivery schedule. It is critical that all RAs have updated contact information in FFAVORS since this is the ordering system the vendor uses. Having inaccurate contact information may result in a disruption of delivery service.
- Delivery minimum will remain \$150.00 per stop.
- Delivery period is 6:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The DLA will continue to manage this contract and the contacts remain the same:

David Lucht  
508-829-9164  
[David.Lucht@dla.mil](mailto:David.Lucht@dla.mil)

Amanda Holzerman  
215-737-2086  
[Amanda.Holzerman@dla.mil](mailto:Amanda.Holzerman@dla.mil)

#### Important Notes

- HPC will remain the USDA DoD Fresh vendor for orders placed through **April 1, 2022**, which will be delivered until April 8, 2022.
- A webinar is being recorded that will review the basics of the USDA DoD Fresh Program and how it will work with the new vendor, so you can view at your convenience. Additional information will be available soon.
- At this time, **HPC will remain Connecticut's state warehouse for Direct Delivery USDA Foods** under a state contract between the CSDE, Department of Administrative Services, and HPC.

### **Congressional Flexibility Extended through March 11, 2022: Low-Fat (1%) Flavored Milk in the National School Lunch program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and Ban on Purchase of Raw or Processed Poultry Products Imported from China**

In Section 789, of Division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Congress provided that none of the funds made available by the Appropriations Act or any other act may be used to restrict the offering of low-fat (1%) flavored milk in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) as long as such milk is not inconsistent with the most recent Dietary Guidelines. **Due to recent Congressional action, this flexibility allowing low-fat flavored milk in the NSLP and SBP is now effective through March 11, 2022.** This provides additional flexibility in planning school breakfast and lunch menus but does not require schools to make any menu changes.

**Note:** Based on this information, SFAs must submit a waiver to the CSDE to serve flavored low-fat milk **after** March 11, 2021. For more information, refer to the "[How To](#)" section of the CSDE's Operating Child Nutrition Programs during COVID-19 Outbreaks webpage.

Congress also provided that funds made available by the Appropriations Act cannot be used to procure raw or processed poultry products imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China for use in the Child Nutrition Programs. **This prohibition is also extended through March 11, 2022.**

For more information, refer to [USDA Memo SP 11-2021, CACFP 10-2021 and SFSP 06-2021](#): *Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs – REVISED*. **Note:** While the expiration date for these provisions is listed in the memo as **September 30, 2021**, they have both been extended through **March 11, 2022**. The USDA will provide additional guidance if these provisions are further extended. As stated in the memo, flexibility related to paid lunch equity and serving potatoes and other starchy vegetables in the SBP remains in effect through school year 2021-22.

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### **USDA Memo SP 04-2022 and CACFP 04-2022: Question and Answer Guidance on the Final Rule Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Effective July 1, 2022**

[USDA Memo SP 04-2022 and CACFP 04-2022](#) provides questions and answers on the final rule, *Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium* (87 FR 6984, February 7, 2022).

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### **USDA Memo SP 05-2022: Meal Requirements Under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Questions and Answers for Program Operators Updated to Support the Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium Effective July 1, 2022**

[USDA Memo SP 05-2022](#) includes updated questions and answers to incorporate changes codified by the final rule, *Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium* (87 FR 6984, February 7, 2022), effective July 1, 2022. These questions and answers on meal requirements for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program have been updated to reflect the transitional standards for milk, whole grains, and sodium that are intended to be transitional requirements for school years (SY) 2022-23 and 2023-24. Most of the questions and answers within this guidance are unchanged because they are not affected by the final rule.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) plans to promulgate a new rule for long-term meal pattern requirements to be effective starting in SY 2024-25. In case of a delay, this updated guidance will remain in effect until subsequent standards are promulgated through rulemaking. **USDA Memo SP 05-2022 rescinds and replaces USDA Memo SP 38-2019**, *Meal Requirements under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Questions and Answers for Program Operators*, dated September 23, 2019.

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### **USDA Webinar Recordings Available: Transitional Standards for Milk, Sodium, and Whole Grains**

In February 2022, the USDA conducted webinars for state agencies, school food authorities, and industry partners on the final rule, *Child Nutrition Programs: Transitional Standards for Milk, Whole Grains, and Sodium*. Recordings of these webinars are available at the links below.

- State agencies and school food authorities: [Transitional Standards for Milk, Sodium, and Whole Grains Webinar for State Agencies and School Food Authorities](#)
- Industry: [Transitional Standards for Milk, Sodium, and Whole Grains-Industry Partners Webinar](#)

Links to both webinars are also available on the USDA's [Nutrition Standards for School Meals](#) webpage.

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### **Resource Roundup: It's More than a Meal Application**

The CSDE's document, [It's More than a Meal Application](#), helps districts promote the importance of encouraging parents/guardians to complete and submit a free or reduced-price meal application for their child. While free and reduced-price meal applications are not required this year for students to receive meals free of charge, districts should be encouraging parents/guardians to complete and submit the application so the child and district may become eligible for additional benefits. For example, an approved free and reduced-price meal application may qualify the student for Pandemic Electronic Transfer Benefits (P-EBT) and allow the child to receive additional free benefits provided by the school, such as free field trips, free athletic uniforms, and free physicals. Additionally, a child's free, reduced, or paid eligibility status is recorded in the district's Public Student Information System (PSIS) and reported to the CSDE. This impacts E-rates, Title 1 funding, and other district benefits.

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## Good to Know

### **New USDA Resource: Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast**

The USDA's new training guide, [\*Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast\*](#), provides information for school nutrition professionals on how to identify sources of added sugars and specific ways to reduce the amount of added sugars in school breakfast meals. It includes information on:

- how to determine amounts of added sugars in foods and drinks;
- menu planning tips;
- tips for reducing added sugars in recipes; and
- talking with families and caregivers.

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### **Now Available: Team Nutrition Webinars Captioned in Spanish**

Team Nutrition is pleased to announce the release of the “Master the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)” and “Navigating the Food Buying Guide Calculator” English webinars captioned in Spanish.

- **Master the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)!** This webinar provides a demonstration of the PSTTT, as well as an overview of the Professional Standards requirements and resources. The webinar can be viewed in English and with Spanish captions at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/professional-standards-resources>.
- **Navigating the Food Buying Guide Calculator:** This webinar provides an interactive demonstration of the Food Buying Guide (FBG) Calculator, a feature included with the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs Interactive Web-based Tool. Participants learn how to create a shopping list using the FBG Calculator when ordering food for their programs. The webinar can be viewed in English and with Spanish captions at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-training-resources>.

For more information about these tools and related resources visit these Team Nutrition webpages:

- [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#)

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### ¡Ya disponible! ¡Seminarios web subtítulos en español!

Team Nutrition se complace en anunciar el lanzamiento de los seminarios web en inglés "¡Domina la herramienta para reportar capacitaciones de los estándares profesionales (PSTTT, por sus siglas en inglés)!" y "Navegando la Calculadora de la Guía de compra de alimentos" subtítulos en español.

- **¡Domina la herramienta para reportar capacitaciones de los estándares profesionales (PSTTT)!** Este seminario web ofrece una demostración de la herramienta para reportar capacitaciones de los estándares profesionales, titulada Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT), y también una descripción general de los requisitos y recursos de las Normas Profesionales. El seminario web se puede ver en inglés y con subtítulos en español en <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/professional-standards-resources>
- **Navegando la Calculadora de la Guía de compra de alimentos** Este seminario web ofrece una demostración interactiva de la Calculadora de la Guía de compra de alimentos (FBG), una función incluida con la herramienta interactiva web de la Guía de compra de alimentos para los Programas de Nutrición Infantil titulada, *Food Buying Guide* (FBG, por sus siglas en inglés). Los participantes aprenden cómo crear una lista de compras utilizando la Calculadora FBG cuando piden comida para sus programas. El seminario web se puede ver en inglés y con subtítulos en español en <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-training-resources>.

Para obtener más información sobre estas herramientas y recursos relacionados, visite estas páginas web de Team Nutrition:

- [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#)

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### Dairy Grant Opportunity for School Meals: Deadline March 31, 2022

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy are pleased to announce a funding opportunity from Connecticut Dairy Farmers to eligible Connecticut schools to support food service needs related to expanding summer or school meal programs or serving new dairy menu items in summer or fall 2022. New for 2022, schools can apply for New England Dairy's [turn-key smoothie kit](#). Visit [NewEnglandDairy.com](http://NewEnglandDairy.com) for details. **The application deadline is March 31, 2022.** Funding for this program is provided by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy.

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For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2022/SLT\\_03\\_09\\_2022.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SLT/2022/SLT_03_09_2022.pdf).

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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