

The School Lunch Tray: April 13, 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

- Ordering Excess USDA Foods for April: Deadline April 20, 2022

Need to Know

- Cancelled: Table Talk for April 14, 2022
- USDA Foods Update: Continue to Order from Allocations at HPC and Request to Donate Excess USDA Foods
- New Vendor Update: USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- Resource Roundup: CSDE's Laws and Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs webpage

Good to Know

- Put Local on Your Tray 2022-23: Sign-up and Take the Local Pledge
- Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Webinar, Thursday, April 28, 2022: Get Ready to Respond: Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

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

Ordering Excess USDA Foods for April: Deadline April 20, 2022

The USDA Foods listed below are available in limited quantities for April.

Material Code	Material Description
100158	Beef ground fine 85/15 frz
100220	Peaches canned diced ex lt syrup #10
100242	Blueberries wild unsweetened frz
100360	Garbanzo beans
100935	Sunflower seed butter smooth 5 lb
110186	Salsa tomato ls pouch 106 oz
110462	Chicken strips frz
110473	Broccoli florets frz
110721	Frz sweet potato crinkle cut 3/8"
110860	Strawberry frz ctn
111052	Carrots diced 1/2" frz
111053	Corn whole kernel frz
111230	Vegetables mixed frz

While the [Request to Order Excess USDA Foods Form](#) contains all Connecticut USDA Foods, only items above will be available for April. Ordering opens today, Wednesday, April 13, 2022, and closes Wednesday April 20, 2022.

All Recipient Agencies (RAs) should complete the steps below.

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. 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 April 20, 2022.
 - If you submitted a Request to Order USDA Foods for March and did not receive any items, your order will be filled first. You may place an additional order for items not on March's order form.

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- 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 maintain them on file. These transfers should become available on the RA's HPC allocation reports within one month.
- All excess USDA foods must be ordered from HPC by the last scheduled delivery date in June.

Note: To submit a request, RAs must have a current Direct Delivery account with HPC. If you do not have a Direct Delivery account with HPC but would like to order some of the available USDA Foods, please contact the [FDP staff](#) for assistance.

Need to Know

Cancelled: Table Talk for April 14, 2022

The Table Talk scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2022, is cancelled. The next Table Talk will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

USDA Foods Update: Continue to Order from Allocations at HPC and Request to Donate Excess USDA Foods

Please continue 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 some 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.

There will be only two to three more deliveries for the remainder of the school year. Any RA that identifies extra USDA Foods should complete a [Request to Donate Excess USDA Foods Form](#). The Connecticut Food Distribution Program (FDP) team will try to redistribute these items to RAs that can use them this school year. Until another RA accepts transfer of the product, these items remain in your inventory and on your HPC allocation report. The FDP will continue to accept [Request to Donate Excess USDA Foods Forms](#) indefinitely. Please make sure to use the correct form if you are donating USDA Foods. There is one form for donating, which has a red title, and one form for ordering which has a green title.

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New Vendor Update: USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

The new DoD Vendor, Gargiulo Produce, has entered the new delivery day schedule into FFAVORS. If they make any changes, they will contact RAs directly. Please contact Gargiulo Produce if your school will be closed on your assigned delivery day, or if you will not have staff available between 6:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to receive the delivery.

The initial catalog is only a sample of the available produce. The next catalog will contain more selections. If you have suggestions for new items, please contact the [Food Distribution Program](#) and Gargiulo Produce at dodcustomersupport@gargiuloproduce.com.

Resource Roundup: CSDE's Laws and Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs webpage

The CSDE's [Laws and Regulations for Child Nutrition Programs](#) webpage is the go-to resource for finding links to state and federal laws and regulations that govern the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs, competitive foods in schools, and nutrition-related requirements. Topics include Connecticut General Statutes and regulations, USDA legislation for school meals, USDA regulations and final rules for the Child Nutrition Programs, and how to find state and federal legislation.

Good to Know

Put Local on Your Tray 2022-23: Sign-Up and Take the Local Pledge

The new [Put Local On Your Tray campaign](#) is ready to help school food authorities (SFAs) set goals and make a commitment to Put Local on Your Tray for school year 2022-23. This is the second year that Put Local on Your Tray is offering a new menu of choices to design a farm to school plan for your district's specific needs and capabilities. Taking the pledge provides support, resources, and community in serving local farm fresh products in your cafeterias. The [Put Local on Your Tray](#) website has a wealth of resources to help SFAs provide and promote healthy and nutritious school meals.

Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Webinar, Thursday, April 28, 2022: Get Ready to Respond: Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

Planning can help operators to be more equipped to protect themselves and others in response to natural disasters and weather-related events that may occur unexpectedly. The April STAR webinar will feature the USDA, FNS Office of Food Safety and the USDA, FNS Office of Emergency Management. The webinar will highlight food safety considerations to keep in mind during emergencies, including key tips and practices that aid in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in school nutrition and foodservice operations. Using the information provided, operators and their school communities can come together and be ready for food safety emergencies they may face.

- *Date and time:* Thursday, April 28, 2022, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
- *Registration:* https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jNhat7YyQ1u-F6GhFZnDfQ
- *SNA Key Areas:* 2 – Operations
- *USDA Professional Standards Codes:* 2620 – Practice general food safety procedures
- *Learning Objective:* Attendees will:
 - Identify strategies that can help to ensure food safety and support the emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in their school nutrition and foodservice operations.
 - Identify the primary food safety risks and interventions to consider during a variety of emergencies caused by disasters and weather-related events.
 - Recall key food safety tips and practices to consider in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plans.
 - Identify food safety resources that can assist operators in their emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plans.

A continuing education certificate will be available 24 to 48 hours after completion of the webinar.



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_04_13_2022.pdf.

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- (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.

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