

The School Lunch Tray: April 14, 2021

Dear School Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs:

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

- Excess USDA Foods for April 2021
- April's List of Available USDA Foods: Orders due Friday, April 30, 2021
- Connecticut Farm to School Summit: April 28, 2021
- New England Dairy's Chill Out with Cold Milk Webinar (May 11, 2021) and Maximize Your Milk Handout
- Reminder: No Table Talk This Week
- Resource Roundup: Bookmark the CSDE's Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs Webpage

Please review and share with appropriate staff members. Thank you.



The School Lunch Tray: April 14, 2021

Excess USDA Foods for April 2021

As we are well into April, it is time to review **all** inventory on your HPC allocation report, and decide if you can use the remaining food. If you are not able to take delivery of all items before your last scheduled delivery in June, you **must** donate any excess food. There will be only two to three more deliveries for the remainder of the school year.

For April's excess USDA Foods orders, the Connecticut Food Distribution Program (FDP) has extended the ordering deadline to **April 30, 2021**, to provide additional time for Recipient Agencies (RAs) to do the following:

1. Review your remaining inventory at HPC from your most recent allocation report.
2. If you will use all of your inventory at HPC this year, or have already used all of your inventory, and wish to submit an order, e-mail Allison Calhoun-White at allison.calhoun-white@ct.gov with a brief e-mail requesting to order excess USDA Foods without donating any USDA Foods.
3. If you will not use all of your inventory for this school year, you must submit a [Request to Donate Excess USDA Foods Form](#) for any items you will not be able to take delivery of by the end of the school year. If you have already submitted a Request to Donate Excess USDA Foods form and the items remain on your HPC allocation report, you do not have to resubmit the request. **Note:** If the Connecticut FDP does not receive a Request to Donate Form or e-mail confirming use of all current inventory, your order for excess USDA Foods will **not** be processed.
4. 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, orders that were not **preceded** by a Request to Donate USDA Foods Form or e-mail confirming use of all inventory, or orders received after April 30, 2021.
 - 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. These transfers should show up on the RA's HPC allocation reports within one month.

The School Lunch Tray: April 14, 2021

- **Orders placed the prior month that could not be filled at all will rollover. Please do not send in a duplicate order.** You may send in an order for additional items. This will be added to your original order if there are any items remaining from the prior month.
- Note: If a prior order was filled fully or partially, i.e. if even **one** item from your order was filled, the remainder of the order will NOT rollover. Please place a new order if you have received any part of your requested order, and you wish to receive any further excess USDA Foods.

Note: RAs must have a current Direct Delivery account with HPC in order to submit a request. 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 some of the available USDA Foods, please contact the [FDP staff](#) for assistance.

April's List of Available USDA Foods: Orders due Friday, April 30, 2021

Please submit orders by end of business on **Friday, April 30, 2021**. The Connecticut FDP is actively removing inventory from RAs that have not been using it to date. All items on the order form are available **with the exception of the following items:** Shredded White Cheddar, Yellow Cheddar Slices, Mozzarella String Cheese, Pepper Jack Cheese, Chunk Light Tuna Fish and Dried Mixed Fruit. Please contact the [FDP staff](#) with questions.

Connecticut Farm to School Summit: April 28, 2021

The Connecticut (CT) Farm to School Collaborative has opened registration for the **CT Farm to School April Summit**. The virtual Summit will take place on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

The Summit brings together a diverse group of stakeholders in a collaborative process to engage school communities, farmers, food system workers, and others to generate ideas and connections that advance the ability of CT to support healthy communities. For more information and to register, visit the [CT Farm to School April Summit Registration](#). Early registration is due by **Friday, April 16, 2021**. Participants who register by this date will receive something in the mail before the summit.

New England Dairy Chill Out with Cold Milk Webinar (May 11, 2021) and Maximize Your Milk Handout

New England Dairy has two new opportunities for school nutrition programs. Funding for these projects was paid for by New England Dairy and the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board.

Chill Out with Cold Milk Webinar

Drinking milk with school meals helps students get more key nutrients into their diets. Unfortunately, according to New England Dairy's recent consumer research, many students perceive school milk to be of lower quality than the milk they drink at home. [Register](#) for the Chill Out with Cold Milk Webinar on May 11, 2021, from 2-3 p.m. to learn about milk's nutrients, where it comes from, and how to keep it tasting its best at school! Connecticut registrants will receive a free *Chill Out with Cold Milk Toolkit*. Webinar attendees will have two chances to win equipment to support cold milk at their school. Visit NewEnglandDairy.com for more information and registration. This webinar is pending approval for 1 CEU from the School Nutrition Association (SNA) and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND).

Maximize Your Milk Handout

Sometimes families end up with more milk in their fridge than they can drink. New England Dairy's new [Maximize Your Milk at Home](#) resource shares 10 great ways to use up extra milk and boost nutrition at the same time. [Order](#) an unlimited quantity of our free printed handout to distribute to your families today!

Reminder: No Table Talk on April 15 or 22

Table Talk is on hiatus during the next two weeks of spring break for Connecticut schools. Join us for Table Talk when we return on April 29, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Registration for the April Table Talk series is available at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7940814127249762576>. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezIN3YJJqjkPGND.

Resource Roundup: Bookmark the CSDE's Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs Webpage

This week's Resource Roundup is a reminder to bookmark the CSDE's webpage, [Program Guidance for School Nutrition Programs](#). This webpage includes an alphabetical listing of links to information on federal and state requirements, guidance, and resources for the USDA's school nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast Program (SBP), National School Lunch Program (NSLP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), and Special Milk Program (SMP).

This webpage page is the **go-to resource for easy access** to all topics related to school nutrition programs. If you cannot find a topic or have suggestions for additional topics or resources, please let us know! E-mail Susan Fiore at susan.fiore@ct.gov.



For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [School Lunch Tray 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/Training/TableTalk/SLT_04_14_2021.pdf.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, 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: [How to File a 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of affirmative action/equal opportunity for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, civil air patrol status, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes.

Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Coordinator (ADA), Connecticut State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 505, Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071, levy.gillespie@ct.gov.