

The School Lunch Tray: August 25, 2021

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.

- **Reminder: Disaster Preparedness for School Food Service Professionals**
- **Recording of Procurement Strategies for School Year 2021-22: Webinar for School Food Authorities**
- **Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) STAR Webinar: Preparing to Pivot with a Food Safety Focus, August 26, 2021**
- **ICN's STAR Two-part Webinar Series: Back to School: Tools and Strategies to Address Supply Chain Challenges, September 1 and 2, 2021**
- **Adopt a Cow Education Program: Deadline September 15, 2021**
- **Chill Out with Cold Milk Resources and Cooler Giveaway: Deadline September 30, 2021**
- **Resource Roundup: Information Session about Operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in School Year 2021-22, Thursday, September 2, 2021**

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



Reminder: Disaster Preparedness for School Food Service Professionals

As a reminder, school food authorities (SFAs) may be asked to assist with the response to disasters such as hurricanes or winter storms. If there is a Presidential disaster declaration, HPC Foodservice will have first priority to assist the State of Connecticut. SFAs may be called upon by town officials or the Red Cross to serve food to the public during a disaster. SFAs that use USDA Foods during a disaster must keep records of the USDA Foods used and any transportation costs. If there is a Presidential disaster declaration, the CSDE FDP will assist SFAs with the application process to the USDA for replacement and reimbursement. The USDA provides replacement in situations of distress only to the extent that Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) funds are available.

The resources below provide guidance on using USDA Foods during disasters. Please review and share these resources with appropriate staff. The FDP strongly recommends printing the first two highlighted resources so they are available for reference in case a Presidential declaration is made.

- [USDA Foods in Disasters Manual](#) (updated July 2021)
- [Disaster Feeding Guidance for School Food Authorities Using USDA Foods](#) (updated August 2021)
- Webinar: [Use of USDA Foods in Disaster](#) (recorded July 29, 2021)
- Fact Sheet: [USDA Foods During Disaster](#)

These resources are available in the “[Disaster Feeding Guidance](#)” section of the CSDE’s Food Distribution Program (USDA Foods) webpage.

For questions, please contact Allison Calhoun-White at allison.calhoun-white@ct.gov or Monica Pacheco at monica.pacheco@ct.gov.

Recording of Procurement Strategies for School Year 2021-22: Webinar for School Food Authorities

On August 13, 2021, the USDA FNS presented *Procurement Strategies for School Year 2021-22: Webinar for School Food Authorities*. This webinar discusses school meal procurement strategies and USDA school meal program flexibilities, waivers, and training resources for school year 2021-22. The recorded webinar is available at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/procurement-strategies-school-year-2021-2022-webinar-school-food-authorities>.

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Team Nutrition Webinar: Master the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool, August 25, 2021

Join Team Nutrition for a live demonstration of the Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT), as well as an overview of the Professional Standards resources. Participants will learn about the benefits of using the PSTTT and the new features that allow directors, managers, and staff to prepare for the 2021-22 school year.

- *Date and time:* Wednesday, August 25, 2021, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- *Registration:* [registration link](#)

Institute of Child Nutrition's (ICN) STAR Webinar: Preparing to Pivot with a Food Safety Focus, August 26, 2021

Attendees will learn strategies to develop a culture of food safety in the school community, identify characteristics of a food-safe environment and methods to maintain a food-safe facility, respond to food safety challenges and operation changes that may be caused by inclement weather and emergencies, and understand the importance of maintaining safe water systems and addressing water safety when reopening school buildings.

- *Date and time:* Thursday, August 26, 2021, from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- *Registration:* https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YoDyYrpRd6Pouz5cakjyw
- *SNA Key Areas:* 2 – Operations
- *USDA Professional Standard Codes:* 2640 – Promote a Culture of Food Safety

ICN's STAR Two-part Webinar Series: Back to School: Tools and Strategies to Address Supply Chain Challenges, September 1 and 2, 2021

Program operators across the nation have experienced challenges with purchasing and receiving foods through their normal distributions. Join ICN for a two-part webinar series that will address tools and strategies on managing supply chain challenges. Both sessions will address supply chain challenges but will have different panelists. Attendees may register for one or both sessions.

- **Registration for Part 1: Wednesday, September 1, 2021, from 3:00–4:00 p.m.**
https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kJ3k3h1jQlCHnFeOKFvb9g
- **Registration for Part 2: Thursday, September 2, 2021, from 3:00–4:00 p.m.**
https://theicn.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jTf5DRsSRvuSU-ysPlf9BQ
Connecticut's own Lonnie Burt, Food Service Director of Hartford Public Schools, is part of this panel.

SNA Key Areas: 2 - Operations

USDA Professional Standard Codes: 2400 - Purchasing/Procurement

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Adopt a Cow Education Program: Deadline September 15, 2021

The Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy are excited to announce a new partnership with Discover Dairy's Adopt a Cow program. This program provides an exciting, year-long experience for the classroom where students get an inside look at dairy farming while paired with a calf from a dairy farm in their state. Classrooms receive regular progress updates, photos of the cow, live chats from the farm, activity sheets for students, suggested lessons that follow Common CORE standards, and opportunities to write letters to the calf. This program can be used for virtual or in-person instruction and is *free* for all K-12 educators.

Register for this school year between August 1 and September 15, and make sure you share the program with a teacher you know! Visit www.discoverdairy.com/adopt to register and learn more about the program. Funding for this program was provided by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy.

Chill Out with Cold Milk Resources and Cooler Giveaway Deadline September 30, 2021

Learn how to offer the best tasting milk possible with New England Dairy's Chill Out with Cold Milk webinar and toolkit. This recorded webinar can be used for back-to-school training and is approved by SNA and AND for 1 CEU. The webinar covers dairy nutrition, how milk gets from farm to school, as well as steps schools can take to ensure they serve fresh, great-tasting milk. Each toolkit includes a free bi-metallic stemmed thermometer and milk temperature survey.

Complete and return the survey by September 30, 2021, to receive an inflatable cow (while supplies last) and be entered to win a cow spot wrapped milk cooler.

How to participate:

1. Order your free [Chill Out with Cold Milk toolkit](#). If you need more than 10, please email info@newenganddairy.com.
2. Watch the [Chill Out with Cold Milk webinar](#), take the quiz at the end, and print your CEU certificate.
3. Complete the milk temperature survey [online](#) or fill out the [paper survey](#) and email it to info@newenglanddiary.com by 11:59 p.m. on September 30, 2021.

Official contest rules are available at NewEnglandDairy.com. Funding for this project was provided by the Connecticut Milk Promotion Board and New England Dairy.

Resource Roundup: Information Session about Operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) in School Year 2021-22, Thursday, September 2, 2021

Join the CSDE's Child Nutrition Programs team on Thursday, September 2, 2021, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. for an information session about operating the SSO in school year 2021-22. Learn about the key differences for operating the SSO this school year versus how it operated in the past. This session will also highlight the CSDE's document, [*Comparison of Operating the National School Lunch Program \(NSLP\) and Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\) for School Food Authorities in School Year 2021-22 through June 30, 2022.*](#)

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only): [+1 860-840-2075,,689059329#](#)

Phone Conference ID: 689 059 329#

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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_08_25_2021.pdf.

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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.

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