

# Child Nutrition Thursday Update

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Child Nutrition Website - <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition>

Child Nutrition List Serve Email - [child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org](mailto:child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org)

# **BREAKING** **NEWS**

## **The List Serve is Changing!!**

The Maine Office of Information Technology has made the decision to forego using List Serves. Therefore, we are shifting the way we get messages to you and how you will share information and ask questions.

Beginning January 22, 2026, our office will started using EnGiNE, Maine DOE's open-source learning portal. Our list serve email list cannot be transferred to EnGiNE, you **MUST** sign up using this [link](#). You will receive an email with login information once your request has been approved.

If you are with a **School District**, please be sure to use your school email address, access to EnGiNE will be faster.

If you are with a **Partner Agency**, you must also sign up but your access will have to be approved by the EnGiNE Team, which could take 24 to 48 hours.

*Once you receive notification that your EnGiNE access is approved or you already have access to EnGiNE, you can enroll in the National School Lunch Program Information Portal using this [link](#).*

The Thursday Update will still be accessible on our website.

# School Meals During Ramadan SY26

## Waiver Request Form Available for School Meals During Ramadan

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) has received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to offer a waiver permitting local program operators to serve meals in a non-congregate setting to participants attending a school or sponsoring agency who are fasting to observe Ramadan in 2026. Under the waiver approval, Maine DOE's local program operators may offer meals for participants to consume in a non-congregate setting; adjust the time of meal service; and serve meals in high schools without using offer versus serve during Ramadan 2026. This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk After School Program. It is effective from February 17, 2026, through March 18, 2026. The following waivers are available upon request: To apply for the use of the Ramadan Waiver for NSLP, SBP, and CACFP At-Risk After School Program, a Program operator must submit a [waiver request form](#). This form ensures necessary information regarding usage of the waivers and subsequent requirements for use are met and documented. Additional questions regarding the Ramadan waiver should be directed to [jane.mclucas@maine.gov](mailto:jane.mclucas@maine.gov).

# USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

## January Monthly Order


The Monthly Order runs from the 1st-15<sup>th</sup>.

- If the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month is a Saturday or Sunday, the monthly order will close on Friday at 4:00pm.
- If it is not, the closing date is simply the 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.


Step by step directions on how to complete your order can be found on the the [USDA Foods](#) page of our website.

**Orders cannot be refused or sent back to PFG once shipped.**

## Canned Sliced Apples



We have been informed by the USDA that the truck of canned sliced apples that we split with another state has now been cancelled due to vendor constraints. PAL entitlements have been refunded to the Districts who had not yet received their order of apples.



# **Net Off Invoice - NOI**

## **Have you been using your allocation of NOI pounds?**

At the end of January NOI balances will be reviewed and if a District has a balance, with a processor, in excess of 60%, those pounds will be transferred to a District that can use them.

## **Not sure what your NOI Balance is..**

Log into either Processor Link or K12 FoodService to see what your usage looks like.

# USDA Annual Order

**COMING  
SOON**

The SY2027 Annual Order will be open on Tuesday,  
January 20, 2026 at 7:30am.

You will have until 4:00pm on February 13, 2026 to  
complete your Annual Order.

There will be no extensions!

To see a list of what will be offered on the Annual Order, visit the [Food Distribution](#) page of our website. Scroll until you see the link to “USDA Food Price Per Case

\*\*If there is not a high demand to purchase full truckloads or we cannot split trucks with other states, then certain items **will not** be purchased. \*\*



# Review CNPweb Users

As people come and go from your organization, please make sure those with access to CNPweb are current.

- Log into CNPweb and look under the “Users” tab on your Sponsor Summary page.
- If there are users listed that no longer should have access to your organization in CNPweb, please email [child.nutrition@maine.gov](mailto:child.nutrition@maine.gov) and request a User Access form.

# On-site Monitoring Forms

Have you completed your On-Site Monitoring Forms? These forms are due **February 1<sup>st</sup>** of each year and must be completed for districts with more than one school. This includes lunch, breakfast, and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). After School Snack Program sites must be monitored twice during the year.

Why are these forms important?

- They are valuable self-review forms to ensure program requirements are being followed and are looked at during administrative reviews.
- For breakfast in the classroom, Pre-K meals in the classroom, or other serving location it's critical to monitor to ensure meals are being counted at the point of service, or when a student receives a meal, and not based on attendance or number of meals sent. This is a common finding seen in administrative reviews.

The forms can be accessed here under "On-Site Monitoring Forms":  
<https://www.maine.gov/doe/index.php/schools/nutrition/programs/nslp>.

# *Financial Open Office Hours with Jodi*

Topic: Breakfast Meal Cost Breakdown & Breakfast After the Bell

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: Review of Monthly Financial Reporting

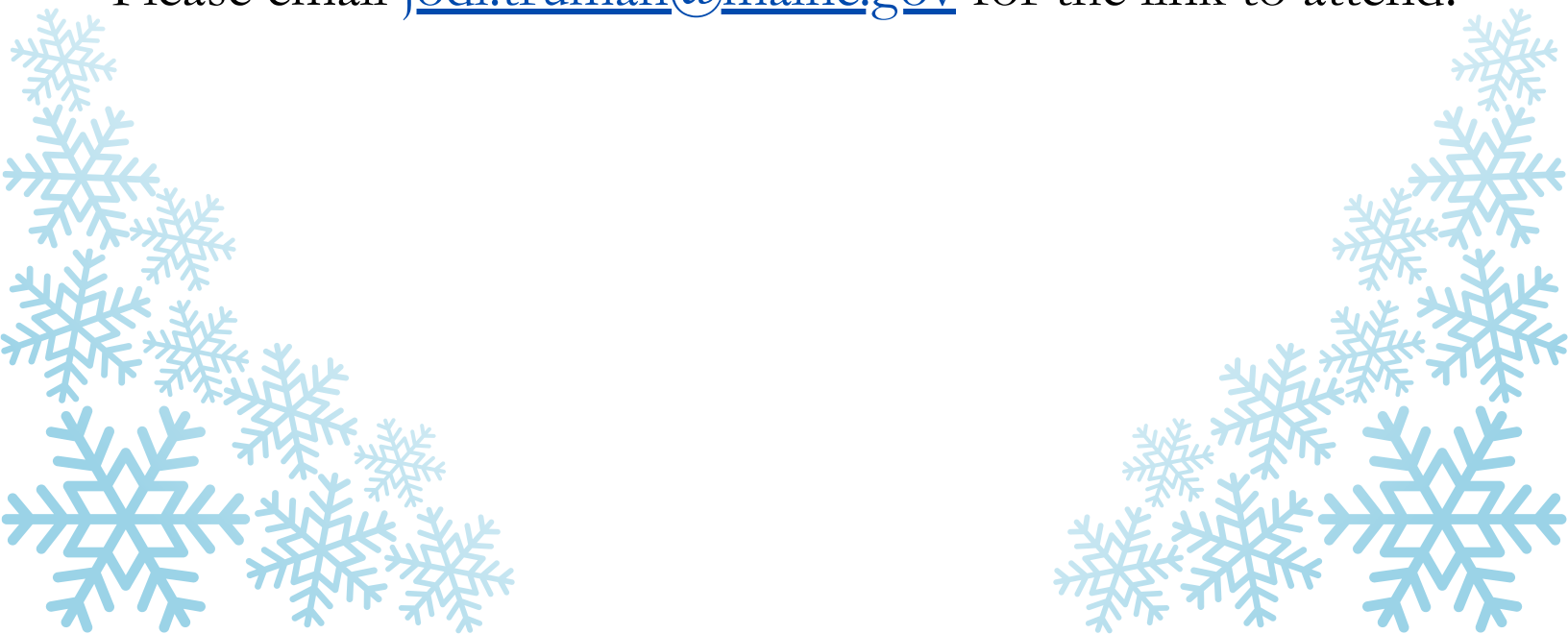
February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: “Are you generating enough revenue?”

Non-program Foods (A La Carte)

April 28th, 1:30-2:30pm

Please email [jodi.truman@maine.gov](mailto:jodi.truman@maine.gov) for the link to attend.



# Production Records and Cycle Menu Workshop

**Improve efficiency. Reduce waste. Stay compliant.**

Join our interactive workshop on Production Records and Cycle Menus and learn how to plan, document, and manage meals with confidence. Perfect for school nutrition professionals looking to strengthen operations and meet program requirements.

Workshop Objectives:

- ✓ Understand the purpose of production records
- ✓ Completing production records correctly
- ✓ Using cycle menus for streamlined planning, consistency, and cost control
- ✓ Best practices for planning and documentation
- ✓ Improve efficiency, consistency, and compliance

Don't miss this opportunity to sharpen your skills  
and improve your program!

**This workshop is open to School Nutrition Directors and Kitchen Managers and will be capped at two people per district.**

**Bring your planned lunch menu for March and a laptop.**

**February 18, 2026 | 8:30am-12:30pm**

Child Nutrition Office - Room 101 | 90 Blossom Lane, Augusta

IT IS TIME TO START PLANNING FOR....



THIS YEAR'S THEME IS

“THE QUEST FOR SCHOOL BREAKFAST”

# Child Nutrition Training

- All of any kind will be removed from the virtual training.
- The links to register are in the training titles - unless otherwise noted.
- We are unable to hold virtual and in person training simultaneously.
- All of our webinars are recorded and put on our website within a week of the training.
- Pay attention to registration deadline dates. Deadlines must be adhered to.
- Be sure to register to ensure that we have enough space for everyone.
- If there is a registration fee - Per Maine DOE policy, payment is due by credit card at the time of registration.
- Mark your calendars once you have registered.

If you have any questions about any of the Child Nutrition Training, please contact Paula at [paula.nadeau@maine.gov](mailto:paula.nadeau@maine.gov)

# Webinars

paula.nadeau@maine.gov

## Crediting Meal Components in the NSLP & SBP

January 26, 2026

1:30

“Crediting” is the process used to determine how specific foods count towards meal pattern requirements. This is important for menu planning and preparing for an upcoming administrative review. Along with program updates and reminders, the January webinar will cover how to credit meal components in the NSLP and SBP, walk through specific scenarios, resources to use, and highlight common crediting pitfalls to avoid.

Presented by Stephanie Stambach.

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## **Three Opportunities to Learn about** **Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP)**

Registration link is in the date and time.

[February 23, 2026](#)

[1:30pm](#)

[March 5, 2026](#)

[10:00am](#)

[March 27, 2026](#)

[10:00am](#)

This program allows districts/schools/group of schools to claim free meals based on the number of enrolled students that qualify based on the Direct Certification List (DC). This webinar will help explain the process and time line for applying for CEP.

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## **Did you miss a webinar?**

You can view it by going to the [Webinars and Training](#) page of our website.



## Local Foods Training

### The Good Crust

**January 21, 2026**  
**10:00am-12:00pm**

**Child Nutrition Culinary Classroom**  
**90 Blossom Lane**  
**Augusta**

Join Katie, our Farm & Sea to School Coordinator for a local foods training with The Good Crust! This training will highlight some of The Good Crust's BRAND-NEW products, including a new handheld breakfast item, Sicilian style pizza crust, and more! During this training, we will demonstrate different ways to prepare and utilize these new products. This training is eligible for districts operating NSLP to receive an extra \$1000 in state Local Foods Fund reimbursements (which can be used to purchase The Good Crust dough!)

Please reach out to Katie with any questions at [katie.knowles@maine.gov](mailto:katie.knowles@maine.gov)

# ServSafe Exam

**2:00pm**

January 27, 2026

Child Nutrition Office

Deering Building

Room 101

Augusta

**Registration Deadline - January 9, 2026**

Arrive early, testing begins promptly at 2:00. Bring photo ID (you will not be able to take the exam if you do not have your ID), pens or pencils, erasers.

Once test has begun no late arrivals will be allowed to take the exam.

**Per Maine DOE policy, payment is due by  
credit card at the time of registration.**

# Shout Outs!!

Before the holidays, the Nutrition teams at Harpswell Community School and Bowdoin Central hosted their holiday meal featuring Maine ingredients. The Superintendent joined them and served dessert.



Thank you, Amanda Johnson for sharing!!