

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

USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

Preparing for the Annual Survey

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

1. Chicken, Pulled, Cooked Frozen

Pack Size: 6/5 lb. or 3/10 lb. bag

Case Size: 30 lb. case

Estimated Price/Case Price per case \$136.80

Additional Information: This product is 100% white meat chicken. Soy and gluten-containing ingredients are not allowed.

2. Black Bean Burger, Patties, Cooked, 2.0 MMA, Frozen

Pack Size: 165-137 patties/case

Case Size: 30 lb. case

Estimated Price/Case \$107.70

Additional Information: This product contains soy. Dairy and egg ingredients are not allowed.

The “Price Per Case” for SY 2025 has been updated as of December 12, 2024.

This could affect your PAL entitlements, by giving your district a negative balance.

Go into CNPweb under the “Entitlement” tab on the Sponsor Summary page and

Check your PAL entitlement balance. If your district has a negative balance, then

you should not be purchasing **extra items**. If you have a negative balance and continue to purchase extras, you will continue to increase your negative balance.

Check your PAL amount. The very last monthly order happens in April, at that point, items will become bonus/free and can be purchased.

When you are audited, the auditors will likely address why your PAL entitlements has become negative, this is the reason why. CNPWeb does not have an overspent turn off. So please keep an eye on the PAL entitlement for your districts.

FFAVORS

The following changes have been made to FFAVORS

Starting on January 5, 2025. Customers are now required to **receipt within 2 business days** of Requested Delivery Date (previously 5 business days) before a receipt is considered past due. As before, if past due receipts exist, ordering will be locked until past due receipts are processed. Receipts will continue to remain on the Edit Receipts screen for 7 days after Requested Delivery Date.

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 contact Paula for a User Access Form, paula.nadeau@maine.gov

Farm & Sea to School Opportunity from our Partners



Applications are open for the 4th Annual Maine Farm and Sea to School Institute! The institute is organized by the Maine Farm and Sea to Institution Network.

What is The Maine Farm & Sea to School Institute?

The Institute supports Maine schools to increase healthy food access, create a culture of equity & wellness, and strengthen their local food systems.

The Institute brings school teams together to build relationships, skills, and a collaborative action plan for Farm & Sea to School (FSTS) programming. Team members leave ready to support one another and implement an FSTS action plan across their school or district—building shared leadership for the long haul. With the support of a Coach, teams spend the Institute year connecting Classroom, Cafeteria, and Community.

An informational webinar is being held on Thursday, January 9th from 3-4pm. Register [here](#) to learn more about this exciting opportunity! For any questions, contact Institute Organizer Alida Peterson: a.peterson@hccame.org or visit the [website](#) for more information.

USDA FNS is Seeking YOUR Feedback!

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is interested in collecting voluntary feedback on the resources available to learn more about USDA Foods in Schools products, including [USDA Foods in Schools Product Information Sheets](#) and the [USDA Foods Database](#). We seek to better understand how these resources are currently utilized and identify potential opportunities for improvement. The intended audience for this survey is state agencies and school food authorities (SFAs) operating the National School Lunch Program, including school districts, individual schools, and contracted foodservice management companies (FSMCs).

Information from this survey will be used internally for general service improvement, to help determine the future of these two resources, and ensure USDA Foods product information is being presented in a way that is most useful to recipients.

Please identify someone from your SFA to complete the survey to provide feedback to FNS. If multiple individuals make use of these resources, more than one response can be submitted on behalf of each SFA. If your SFA contracts with a FSMC to manage the food service operation and use of USDA Foods, please forward to your FSMC to complete. We are requesting feedback through the survey by April 18, 2025.

The survey can be accessed through the following link: [Product Information Sheet and USDA Foods Database Survey](#).

If you have any questions, please contact USDAFoods@usda.gov. Thanks in advance for your assistance!

This information is being collected to assist the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in obtaining feedback related to the resources available to learn more about USDA Foods in Schools products. This is a voluntary collection and FNS will use the information for general service improvement and resource development purposes. The collection does not request personally identifiable information under the Privacy Act of 1974. Responses will be kept private to the extent provided by law. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0584-0611. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes (0.33 hours) per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Policy Support, 1320 Braddock Place, 5th Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. ATTN: PRA (0584-0611). Do not return the completed form to this address.

Request of Information

Grain-Based Desserts & High Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs

In [Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs](#), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) requests comments from the public. The request for information was issued on December 26, 2024, to obtain input to help inform future policymaking, guidance, and technical assistance related to grain-based desserts and high-protein yogurt crediting in Child Nutrition Programs (CNP).

The public is invited to submit comments to www.regulations.gov through **March 26, 2025**.

On February 7, 2023, FNS issued a [proposed rule](#) to update Child Nutrition Program (CNP) meal pattern requirements. The rule included a proposal to limit grain-based desserts in the School Breakfast Program to no more than two ounce equivalents per week, consistent with the National School Lunch Program. However, based on public feedback, FNS did not finalize that proposed limit in the [final rule](#), which published on April 25, 2024. Partners raised concerns that the proposal would limit options at school breakfast and recommended that FNS re-evaluate use of grain-based desserts at school breakfast. In the final rule, USDA committed to exploring methods for improving and simplifying grain-based dessert requirements by soliciting further partner input.

Yogurt is a popular menu item in CNPs. It may be offered in a variety of forms: plain or flavored, unsweetened or sweetened, strained or non-strained, and/or high-protein or regular; as a standalone option or in different menu items, such as yogurt parfaits or smoothies. The variety of yogurt available at retail and in the K-12 market, including high-protein yogurt (e.g., Greek and Greek-style yogurt), has grown and evolved significantly. Therefore, in 2017, FNS requested public input on whether high-protein yogurt (including Greek and Greek-style yogurt) should credit differently than regular yogurt. Those comments were mixed and, as a result, FNS maintained consistent crediting for all yogurt in the CNPs. FNS is now seeking additional public input to determine if any new information warrants a change to yogurt crediting in the CNPs.

Additional Resources:

- More information about the request for information can be found on the FNS website: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/fr-122624>
- Comments can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to [Request for Information: Grain-Based Desserts and High-Protein Yogurt Crediting in Child Nutrition Programs](#) and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

For more information on submitting comments, please see Tips for Submitting Effective Comments here: [Tips-For-Submitting-Effective-Comments.pdf](#). (Please note this is a Federal Register resource and not an FNS resource.)

COMING SOON

Registration for the
2025 Farm to School Cook-off

Stay Tuned!



Child Nutrition Training

The links to register are in the training titles.

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.

Please mark your calendars once you have registered.

Webinars

Completing Your SY2026 Annual Order

January 14, 2025

1:30pm

Terri will go over the steps
you need to take in order to
complete your Annual Order
for SY2026

Financial Webinar: Child Nutrition Budget

January 16, 2025

1:30pm

This webinar intended for new
managers and directors and will
review basic tools for developing
a Child Nutrition Budget.

Child Nutrition Updates & Reminders

January 27, 2025

1:30pm

We will review key updates
and reminders and talk
about the importance of
inventory. There will be
time at the end for Q and A.

ServSafe Test Only

January 28, 2025

2:00pm

Child Nutrition Office, Room 101

Charge for exam is \$51

Registration deadline is January 10, 2025

ServSafe-Managers

Class and Exam

Bucksport High School Library

102 Broadway

Bucksport

Tuesday, February 18, 2025 - 9:00am

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 - 8:00am-approx. noon for the test

The class is for school food service and CACFP only

Books are ordered and mail once registration has ended

Please note start times for each day

Bring photo id, pen or pencils with erasers

You must provide an email address as certificates are sent via email.

Please note testing start time on the second day

Lunch is NOT provided. Please bring a lunch.

Charge for the class is \$102

Payable by credit card, at the time of registration.

Registration deadline - January 24, 2025