

# *Child Nutrition*

# *Thursday Update*

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USDA Foods & NOI Training

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)

# Farm to School Cook-Off



The first 12 teams to register will receive a Mercer Culinary Millennia 13-piece knife set!

***Register for the 2026 Farm to School Cook Off***

This year's challenge ingredients are



Breakfast - **Wild Blueberries**

Lunch - **Ground Beef**



Rules and Guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/programs/localfoods>

If you have any questions please contact

Stephanie - [stephanie.stambach@maine.gov](mailto:stephanie.stambach@maine.gov)

Michele - [michele.bisbee@maine.gov](mailto:michele.bisbee@maine.gov)

Katie - [katie.knowles@maine.gov](mailto:katie.knowles@maine.gov)



***!!Registration will be open until December 31, 2025!!***

# **SY 2026 Unanticipated School Closure with Remote Learning Waiver Request**

Reminder... USDA has approved Maine's request for the Unanticipated School Closures with Remote Learning Waiver. This waiver provides additional flexibility to support continued access to meals for students in the event of unexpected school closures paired with remote learning.

To request use of this waiver, please complete the Microsoft Form below:

👉 <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/3VFAc8JV3D>

Please ensure that your request is submitted as soon as possible when an unanticipated closure occurs so our team can review and respond promptly. Thank you for your continued dedication to ensuring Maine students have access to nutritious meals, no matter the circumstances.

# Financial Information

When receiving your claim reimbursement:

- The advice slip may show FY2025 for federal payments.
- The federal fiscal year runs October-September.
  - This means claims for July – September will appear as F2025 in the description.
- For Maine accounting purposes, payments are reported in the Maine fiscal year (July-June).
- To confirm which months are being paid, use the ED293A accounting report in CNPWeb, which shows the Program Year (Maine Fiscal Year).
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Any questions, contact [Jodi.truman@maine.gov](mailto:Jodi.truman@maine.gov)

# Vegetables

## Are You Offering the Minimum Serving Size of Vegetables in the NSLP?

Grades K-8 – must offer at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of vegetables to students each day

Grades 9-12 – must offer at least 1 cup of vegetables to students each day

Make sure these amounts are reflected on production records to ensure meal pattern compliance!

# USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

## December 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.

## PFG Deliveries

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

# !!Deadline Approaching!!

USDA Foods  
Preparing for Your Annual Order for SY2027

The Sponsor and Delivery Sheets will be open on November 7th and will close on December 5th.

In order to open up SY2027 Annual order for USDA commodities, we need all districts to update **both** their sponsor application and delivery location sheets for 2027. All sheets must be in **Approved** status prior to **Friday, December 5, 2025**.

Follow the steps below to get your sheets into approved status:

Go to: CNPWeb: <https://me.cnpus.com/cnp/Login> Enter in ID/password

Select: FDP- (Food Distribution Program)

Program year **2027**

Locate Sponsor name by clicking on the 1st letter of your sponsor name/district Sponsor number Takes you to Sponsor Summary page.

1. Select **'Applications'** This is a **Two-step process**.
2. Email addresses do not roll over year to year, all Sponsors must enter email addresses in.
3. Select **'Sponsor Application sheet'**, select edit, make all necessary updates, enter in emails, **check off #45**, submit. Status goes from **'Pending Submission'** to **'Approved'** status.
4. Select **'Delivery location sheets'**, select edit, update all information. **The next step is crucial**. Under **storage capabilities**, make sure **dry, refrigerated and frozen boxes are checked off**, this is where your **USDA foods get delivered**. If you only have one delivery application, then all 3 must be checked off. If you have several delivery locations, you may have dry and frozen items going to one school and refrigerated going to another school. Make sure they are checked off appropriately for your deliveries. Status goes from **'Pending Submission'** to **'Pending Approval'**. DOE will only be approving the delivery location sheets.

The Annual Order will tentatively open in January 2026 and close in February 2026. Keep an eye out on the Thursday Updates.

# Sponsor and Delivery Sheets are Missing for the Following Districts

Alexander Public Schools

Blue Hill Public Schools

Brooksville Public Schools

Castine Public Schools

Cutler Public Schools

George Stevens Academy

Indian Township

Jonesboro Public Schools

Jonesport Public Schools

Machias Public Schools

Maine Arts Academy

Maine Central Institute

Mount Desert Public Schools

Mt Desert CSD

Perry Public Schools

Pleasant Point

Rockland-Region 8

RSU 13

RSU 34

RSU 51/MSAD 51

Surry Public Schools

Woodland Public Schools

# *Financial Open Office Hours with Jodi*

Topic: Time Study / Labor Hours  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm-2:30pm**

Topic: Breakfast Meal Cost Breakdown  
January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm-2:30pm

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

Topic: TBA  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-2:30pm

Topic: Annual Financial Report  
May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-2:30pm

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

# Child Nutrition Training

- AI 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

## An Overview of the NSLP Afterschool Snack Program & the CACFP At Risk After School Program

December 15, 2025

1:30

In addition to program updates and reminders, the Child Nutrition December Monthly Webinar will outline the requirements of the NSLP Afterschool Snack Service and Child and Adult Care Food Program At-Risk Afterschool Meals – we'll walk through how each program works and highlight key differences. Presented by Sarah Platt & Kobi Chase

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

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



# Farmer & School Buyer Meetup

December 9, 2025

1:00pm-4:00pm

Fork Food Lab, 95 Darling Avenue, South Portland

This regional networking and training event is designed to connect School Nutrition Directors, local farmers, fishermen, food producers, and distributors across Southern Maine. Participants will engage in panels, demonstrations, sampling, speed networking, and tours to strengthen Farm & Sea to School connections.

## Event Goals & Objectives:

- Highlight successful Farm & Sea to School partnerships, including practical strategies, lessons learned, and purchasing logistics
- Strengthen connections between school nutrition programs and local producers, distributors, and fishermen
- Showcase light processing and efficiency solutions for schools, including demoed tools and techniques
- Facilitate relationship-building and collaboration through speed networking and guided discussions
- Offer hands-on sampling opportunities and exposure to new local products for school menus

## Skills & Topics Covered:

- Networking and strategic collaboration across the local food system
- Navigating school purchasing priorities and distribution channels
- Light processing and prep solutions for school kitchens
- Menu development and local product integration
- Real-world success stories and problem-solving for local sourcing challenges

## Agenda Highlights:

- Panel discussion: School, farm, sea, and distributor perspectives
- Sampling & networking break featuring local products
- Speed networking sessions between producers and school nutrition directors
- Demonstration & discussion on processing solutions for schools
- Fork Food Lab tours and group reflection



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION **FARM & SEA TO SCHOOL**

## Local Foods Training

# Maine Sea to School Culinary Training

**December 16, 2025**

**10:00am-1:00pm**

**Child Nutrition Culinary Classroom**

**90 Blossom Lane**

**Augusta**

Join Maine DOE Child Nutrition, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, and Gulf of Maine Research Institute for a hands-on culinary training! This training will highlight Maine caught fish; expect to learn different ways to prepare fish, safe handling, as well as methods to engage students with local seafood.



## 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)

On behalf of MSNA and the DOE we are excited to announce our second, biennial USDA & NOI food show and learning collaboration.

[Register Here!](#)

PLEASE JOIN **MSNA** AND THE **DOE** FOR A ONE DAY TRAINING ALL ABOUT

# USDA Foods & NOI

**When:** JANUARY 28TH, 2026, 8:30 AM-2PM  
**Where:**

THE HAMMOND LUMBER AUDITORIUM (AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER)

- Food Show emphasizing USDA options
- The big picture for USDA Foods
- What is PAL and how does it work?
- How to calculate NOI allocations
- Panel discussions with directors
- Best practices for managing USDA & NOI

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST 8:30-9 AM

MSNA MEMBERS \$75

NON-MEMBERS \$100

THIS TRAINING IS GEARED TOWARDS  
PROFESSIONALS WHO MAKE PURCHASING  
DECISIONS. WE WILL HAVE A LITTLE BIT  
FOR EVERYONE, FROM NEW DIRECTORS TO  
SEASONED DIRECTORS!



*Think outside the brown box.....*

Registration will close at the end of December, please don't wait!!

Any questions, please reach out to Allison Leavitt,

[aleavitt@lisbonschoolsme.org](mailto:aleavitt@lisbonschoolsme.org)