

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

Meal Benefit Application Materials for SY 2026

We have updated our [website](#) with meal benefit application materials for SY 2026. There are two categories of materials:

1. Materials for public schools and certain private schools that are eligible for the State reimbursement of paid and reduced-price meals and will not be charging households for reimbursable meals.
2. Materials for schools not eligible for Maine's "No Charge" meals and will be charging for paid and reduced-price meals.

Important: SFAs that are operating Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Special Provision 2 (non-base year) must not distribute or process the meal benefit application.

Community Eligibility Provision

Don't miss this opportunity to participate in CEP to the MAX!

With cuts potentially coming to SNAP and Medicare, your DC list will most likely not be as robust as it was on April 1, 2025.

Be sure to take the time to double-check your matches before submitting. Have you checked for:

- Addresses (different names, same household)
- Nonmatching names (Mohammed, Mohammad, Muhammad)
- Missing suffix (Jr/Sr) or hyphens Jones-Smith
- Birthdates that are transposed (05/12/2019 or 05/21/2019)
- Requested and received your Head Start and Homeless lists from those program liaisons

Every single addition to the list will make a big difference and meeting that 50% threshold has multiple benefits.

Let's round the difference between paid and free meals to \$4.00

Out of 175 days the student eats at school 160 day

160 days x \$4/day is \$640 that we could be reimbursed with federal funds if the student is matched on the DC list. Think of what a difference you could make by finding matches for 5 students, and then your colleagues in 20 other districts did the same? \$64,000/year and..this data is good for 4 years and there are 214 sponsors in the state...

Let's help our schools, our communities and help secure Healthy School Meals for All!

Reminders:

- **Superintendents MUST email David at david.hartley@maine.gov on plan to participate in CEP.**
- The deadline to submit documentation is **June 30, 2025 - Per Federal regulations, no new documents will be accepted after June 30, 2025.**
- Master Complete Enrollment List & DC list **must be submitted in EXCEL**
- Documents must be **uploaded into CNP Web**
- David Hartley **must** be notified once documents have been uploaded.
- Superintendents' signature is now needed only at the end of the process

Any questions, contact David at david.hartley@maine.gov or 624-6878



Federal Local Food for Schools (LFS) A Huge Success in Maine!

Maine's Local Food for Schools (LFS) Cooperative Agreement that ran from August 2023 to January 2025 provided Maine schools 100% reimbursement for Maine grown and produced food. The results are in: It was a great success!

- Schools spent \$740,131.28 on local foods
- Purchased from 132 unique producers
- Cultivated relationships with 80 new producers
- 76% of schools surveyed said they would continue purchasing from local producers after LFS funds were expended!
- 19 new districts pledged to Harvest of the Month!

These numbers far exceeded our expectations, and we are so grateful for the child nutrition heroes committed to sourcing locally to provide the most delicious, fresh meals to our children, while supporting our local economy and food system!

2025 Farm to School Cook-off & Finals Recap!

We wanted to take the opportunity to recap our 10th annual Farm to School Cook-off! We held regional competitions in three different regions: York, Western and Aroostook, and a finals competition in Augusta. Thank you to the following school districts that competed this year: RSU 17, RSU 52, MSAD 27, Madawaska Public Schools, RSU 33, RSU 60 and RSU 21.

Congratulations to RSU 60 “The Flavor Knights” for being crowned the 2025 Farm to School Cook-off Champion! They prepared a USDA Pancake Breakfast Bake for breakfast, made with eggs, local sausage, and Maine maple syrup. For lunch, they brought the heat with monkfish tacos, served on local tortillas, with corn and peach salsa. Local eggs and monkfish were the local, challenge ingredients used in the competition. Check out this fun cook-off reel of our final’s competition in Augusta on April 17th!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1BRXw9DuH3/>.

A big thank you to all teams, judges and host sites that participated in the event! It was a great success, and we look forward to next year! Look for our 2025 Farm to School Cookbook this fall, which is a compilation of all recipes used in this year’s cook-off!





Maine Harvest Lunch Week

September 15-19, 2025

Mark your Calendars for Maine Harvest Lunch Week!

Maine's annual Harvest Lunch Week promotes fresh, local food in school cafeterias and teaches our children and youth where food comes from – including local farms, gardens and greenhouses. Maine schools have found creative ways to celebrate in the past, including decorating lunchrooms to showcase local food and inviting area farmers into the classroom to speak with students.

Maine Harvest Lunch Week is also a great opportunity to use state local foods funds! We'd love this year to be a coordinated effort; If you have any questions or any exciting ideas you'd like to share, please email

katie.knowles@maine.gov



End of Year Updates & Reminders

June 10, 2025

1:30pm

Please find the correct link for PSU Webinar registration below:

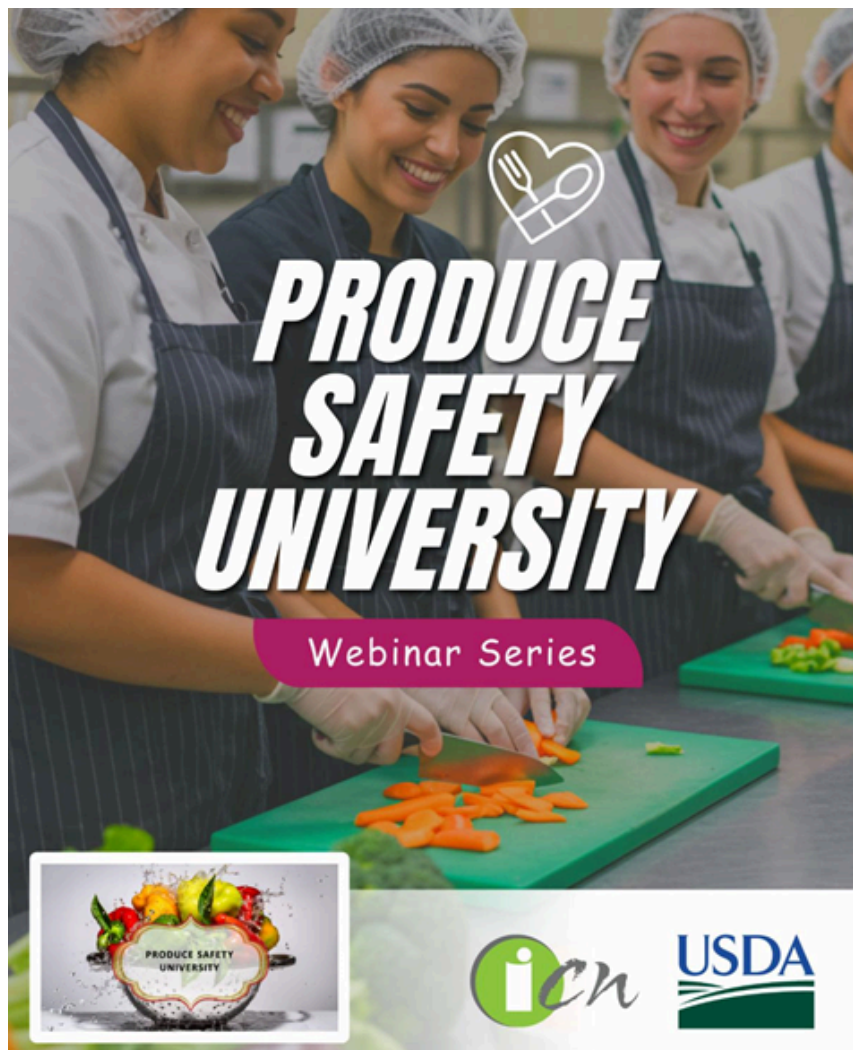


Register Here for June 3
The Produce Lab @ 3:00 pm ET



Welcome to Produce Safety University!

Join the Produce Safety University (PSU) training team and Chef Cyndie Story and her K-12 Culinary Team for three interactive training sessions that will help you connect America's farmers to school meals and strengthen strategies to encourage healthy choices, healthy outcomes, and healthy families!



Produce Safety University: The Produce Lab

June 3, 2025: 3:00-4:30 pm ET

Learn about quality and condition, along with safe handling and preparation techniques to build on strategies to encourage healthy choices and healthy outcomes through school meals. During this interactive laboratory, you'll experience a blend of virtual instruction and live produce labs, including culinary demos to simulate the hands-on learning of the in-person Produce Safety University course.

REGISTER HERE

From the Maine Dairy & Nutrition Council!!

ADOPT A COW FOR YOUR...

Make the
program
your own!

“We’re bringing farm-to-table learning into our cafeteria, and we adopted a calf! Now students can connect with local farming and explore the journey of fresh, nutritious food.”

— Connie, nutrition director

CAFETERIA



▶ discoverdairy.com/adopt 

Looking for creative ways to build excitement in your school cafeteria? Sign up for the FREE Adopt a Cow program for the 2025-26 school year! Adopt a cow for your cafeteria, make farm-to-table connections, and learn all about dairy nutrition.

The Discover Dairy “Adopt a Cow” program is an exciting, year-long experience for your classroom. Throughout the program, you’ll get an inside look at dairy farming and be paired with a calf from a working Maine dairy farm. You’ll find out what her name is, when her birthday is, where she lives, and how the farmer takes care of her. You’ll also receive progress updates, photos of the cow, live chats from the farm, activity sheets for your students, suggested lessons that follow Common CORE standards, and even opportunities to write letters to your calf! All updates are easily accessible via an online portal and app for Apple and Android.

You have until September 15 to enroll in the free program!

Learn more: discoverdairy.com/adopt

Shout Outs!!

Richmond Middle School students were recently treated to a “fuel up” breakfast before State testing. Helping out were school Principal Karl Matulis, Dean of Students John Spear and Middle School teacher Gary Carter.



Kathy Lord, thank you for sharing!!

