

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

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Shout Outs!!

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

Child Nutrition List Serve Email - child.nutrition@maillist.informe.org

New password guidelines for CNPWeb

To align with the State of Maine's (SOM) password policy, a mandatory CNPWeb Password Reset will be implemented beginning **Monday, September 8.**

What to Expect: Once the change is deployed, users will be prompted to update their passwords upon their next login to CNPWeb. The system will enforce this update, and users will be required to complete the password change at that time.

Users may not be able to log in until this new password has been set. The new password must meet the criteria below:

Password Guidelines:

The password must have a minimum length of fifteen (15) characters.

Cannot contain any part of the user's account name.

Cannot contain any dictionary word, unless in conjunction with an additional eight (8) characters and meeting all other criteria in this section.

Cannot contain any common or standard phrase.

Cannot contain keyboard patterns or obvious sequences ("qwerty" or "345ertDFG").

Must contain a mixture of at least one (1) uppercase, and at least one (1) lowercase alphabetic character.

Must contain at least one (1) numeric character.

Must contain at least one (1) special character from amongst the following: ({}[],.<>;:'"?/|\`~!@#\$%^&*()_ -+=).

USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

September Monthly Order

The first of School Year 2026 is available and runs from September 1st-15th. 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.**

Public Release

Schools participating in the Child Nutrition Programs are required to post a Public Release of participation in the programs per 7 CFR 245.5. This release must be posted on the District's main web page, and it may also be posted on the school's nutrition web page. However, posting on the main web page is required. Please ensure that a record of the Public Release, including who it was sent to and when it was sent, is maintained for administrative review.

SY2026 Unanticipated School Closure

nicholas.j.labreck@maine.gov

SY 2026 Unanticipated School Closure with Remote Learning Waiver Request

We are pleased to announce that 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.

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

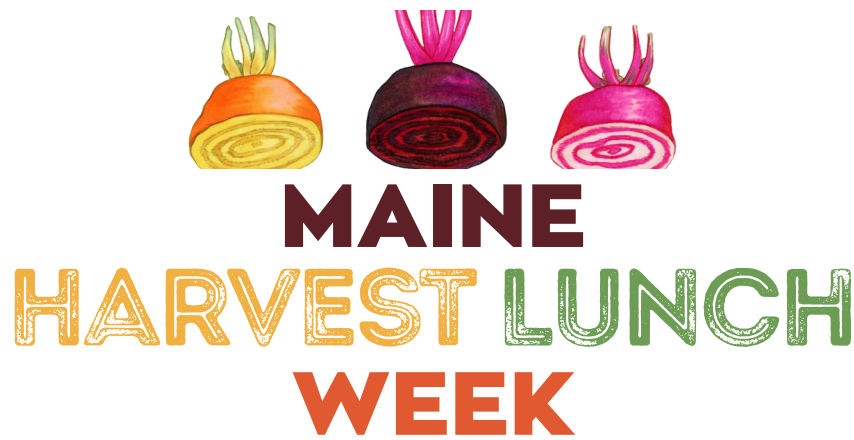
Please ensure that your request is submitted as soon as possible when an unanticipated closure occurs so our team can review and respond promptly. Thank you for your continued dedication to ensuring Maine students have access to nutritious meals, no matter the circumstances.

State Local Foods Fund Changes & Updates

Starting in October, changes to Maine's Local Foods Fund (LFF) will go into effect! This includes:

- State Local Foods Fund Claims will be back in CNP Web!
- New Claim Sheet!
- New higher reimbursement rate!
 - 50% reimbursement (previously 33%)
- New higher maximum reimbursement amount!
 - \$10,000 per year (up from \$5,000)

In order to file a LFF claim in October, you must view our new [training slides](#) (or video coming to website soon!) and fill out an [attestation statement](#) that you understand the new changes! please email katie.knowles@maine.gov with any questions!



September 15th-19th, 2025

Celebrate Local Food with Maine Harvest Lunch Week!

For over 20 years, Maine Harvest Lunch Week (MHLW) has brought schools together to support local farmers and teach students about the importance of Maine's food system. Held during the third week of September (September 15-19th), MHLW encourages schools to serve fresh, seasonal, Maine-grown meals and get creative with activities that highlight the value of eating local. From farm visits and taste tests to menu planning and farmer meet-and-greets, students across the state learn where their food comes from—and why it matters.

If you are celebrating Maine Harvest Lunch Week & want to share, please email katie.knowles@maine.gov



Maine

Apple Crunch Day

October 15th, 2025

Get Ready to CRUNCH!

Celebrate Maine farmers, healthy kids, and strong communities by joining the 1st Annual Maine Apple Crunch this October! At noon on Wednesday, October 15th, schools and communities across the state will bite into crisp, local apples together in a statewide CRUNCH. This fun, educational event highlights the importance of fresh, local food in school cafeterias and teaches students where their food comes from. Participating is easy: buy, serve, and CRUNCH into a Maine-grown apple!

Click [HERE to Register](#)

Click [HERE to view our Apple Crunch Toolkit!](#)

Email Katie Knowles with any questions Katie.Knowles@maine.gov

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.

**If there is a registration fee - Per Maine DOE
policy, payment is due by credit card at the time
of registration.**

**Please mark your calendars once
you have registered.**

Webinars

Top 10 Most Common Program Findings

September 29, 2025

1:30pm

Those recurring challenges and areas that often come under scrutiny during evaluations, audits, and reviews.

Whether you're looking to improve your program's outcomes, prevent common pitfalls, or simply stay ahead of the curve, this session will provide valuable insights that can help you optimize your work. We'll be covering everything from financial mismanagement to reporting inconsistencies, and we'll discuss practical solutions to address these findings effectively.

Civil Rights Training

The Civil Rights training can be found on the [Civil Rights](#) page of our website. Scroll past the Non-discrimination statements to the Civil Rights Training dropdown.

IN PERSON TRAINING!

Verification Training

This training will cover the Verification process.

- *When the process should be started;
- *How to complete the process more easily;
- *The time line for completion;
- *Uploading into CNPWeb

September 23, 2025

1:00-3:30

Registration begins at 12:30

Child Nutrition Office
Deering Building, Room 101
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta

ServSafe Exam

2:00pm

October 20, 2025

Child Nutrition Office

Deering Building

Room 101

Augusta

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.**

Fall Info Meeting

October 23, 2025

9:00am - 3:00pm

Registration begins at 8:30am

University of Maine, Orono - Wells Conference Center

- Hear the latest DOE Updates to keep us aligned with state and federal priorities.
- Learn more about the Regional Local Foods Project and explore its possibilities.
- Discuss rules and best practices around Bulk Milk Service to ensure safe and compliant operations.
- Go over the ins and outs of the new Buy American Tracking Requirement, providing clarity on compliance and implementation.
- ...and more, as we look at ways to strengthen and streamline our programs.

This meeting is designed not only to share information but also to foster conversation.

Registration deadline - **October 15, 2025**

Use this [link](#) to register

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

Basic Sanitation Training

david.hartley@maine.gov

This is NOT ServSafe

This class is intended for Kitchen Staff doing the daily tasks.

October 10, 2025

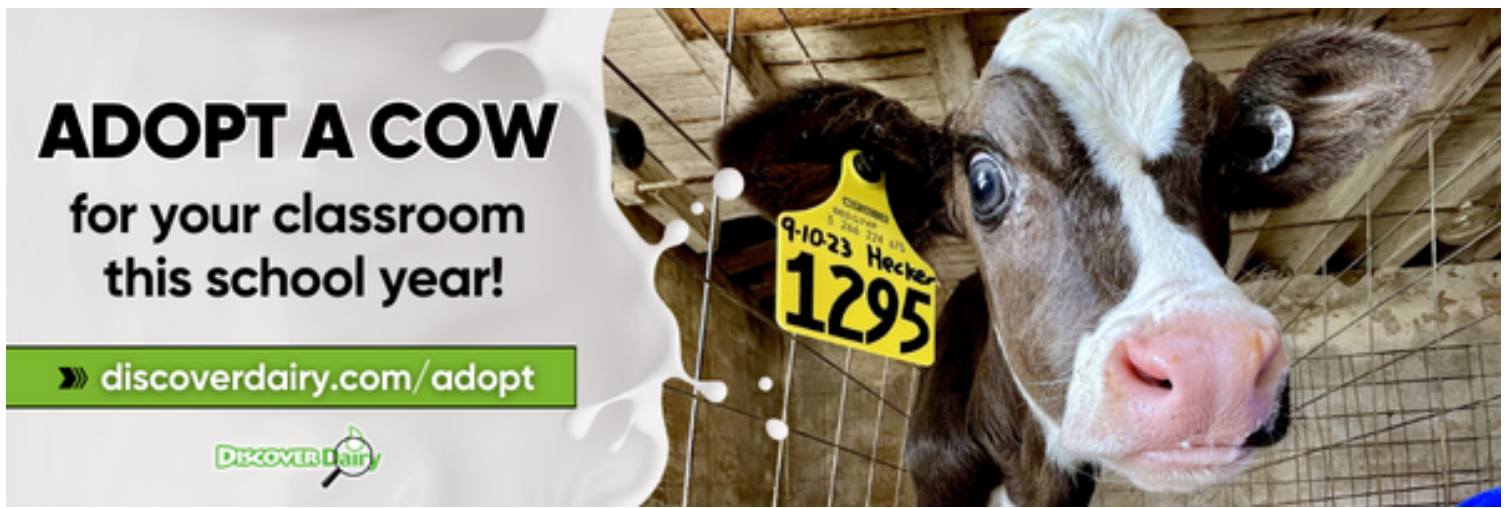
8:30am

Old Town High School

203 Stillwater Avenue, Old Town

This will be a three (3) hour class pertaining to the daily activities School Nutrition staff completed. At the end of the class (approximately 12:00pm) there will be a short test.

[Click HERE to register!](#)



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



The *School Nutrition Essentials: Foundations Bundle* cohort is a Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) created in partnership between the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) and the School Nutrition Association (SNA). The program is designed to foster professional growth and combines structured learning with peer-support cohort model.

Offered at no cost to participants, the cohort program will begin in Fall 2025 and continue through Spring 2026. By completing both fall and spring courses, participants will be eligible to earn their Level 1 Certificate in School Nutrition, the first step in SNA's four-level Certificate Program.

ICN and SNA recognize the commitment required to complete professional learning, so we have designed this **two-course bundle, multi-session experience**. This format makes earning the Level 1 Certificate more accessible, flexible and engaging.

Bundle Course 1: Food Safety in Schools — Session Dates:

September 18:

Welcome, Food Safety in Schools: Cleaning & Sanitizing, Q&A

October 9:

Food Safety in Schools: Foundations of Food Safety in School Nutrition, Q&A

October 16:

Let's Talk Certification, Food Safety in Schools: Building Blocks of a Food Safety Program, Q&A

October 23:

Food Safety in Schools: A Process for Preventing Foodborne Illness, Q&A

November 13:

Food Safety in Schools: Food Safety Essentials, Q&A, Fall Graduation

Session Time: Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CT

[**Apply Here**](#)

Full Plates Full Potential Funding Opportunities Webinar

Join Full Plates, the Maine DOE, the Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council, RSU 40 and Westbrook Schools to learn about grants and funding opportunities for your programs.

September 30, 2025

2:00pm

Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ahBwDixfQ76S18YjwBEzpg



RSU 3 Open House Showcases Local Food with the School Nutrition Program

From Tina Fabian

Before the school year kicked off, RSU 3 held an exciting Open House—and the School Nutrition Program was proud to be part of it! We highlighted our commitment to local foods and healthy eating by offering a variety of delicious samples made with locally sourced ingredients.

Guests enjoyed:

- Buffalo Fish Dip made with fresh local haddock
- Meatballs crafted from local beef
- Fresh local veggies served with homemade ranch dip
- Pasta salad tossed with pesto made from basil grown in our in-school flex towers

One of the biggest hits of the event was the smoothie bike, provided by 5-2-1-0. Children had a blast pedaling to blend their own smoothies—an engaging, hands-on way to promote healthy habits.

The event was a huge success, with lots of fun, enthusiastic participation, and plenty of compliments on the fresh, flavorful food. We're excited to continue bringing local goodness to our school meals all year long!

Thank you for sharing Tina!!

