

Child Nutrition Thursday Update

In this week's Thursday Update

After School Snack Program Reminders & Updates

CNPWeb Sponsor Information Sheet Reminder

USDA Foods

October Survey Coming Soon!

Financial Open Office Hours

2025 Maine Farm to Institution Summit

Apple Crunch Day

Child Nutrition Webinars

ServSafe Exam

Local Foods Training

Fall Info Meeting

Full Plates Full Potential Funding Opportunities Webinar

Maine Green Schools Symposium

Shout Outs!!

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

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

After School Snack Program Reminders & Updates

sarah.d.platt@maine.gov

1. Operators of the ASSP must conduct onsite monitoring of the program at each site once within the first four weeks of operation. A template On-site Monitoring Form is available on our website.
2. The ASSP Meal Pattern has been updated for SY2026!
 - a. 80% of grains must be whole grain rich
 - b. Product based added sugar limits are in effect for cereal, milk & yogurt
 - c. Grain-based desserts may not be used to meet the grain requirement
3. There is no offer versus serve in the ASSP. Students must take both offered items.
4. Claiming – please follow the claiming instructions in the Sponsor and Site Claim Reference Guide found under the ‘Help’ tab in CNPweb.
5. Smart Snacks and the ASSP are not the same. Not all items that are Smart Snack compliant will meet the ASSP meal pattern and not all items that can be served on ASSP are Smart Snack compliant.

CNPWeb Sponsor Information Sheet

jodi.truman@maine.gov

Please make sure your CNPWeb Sponsor Information Sheet reflects any changes to Food Service, Business Manager and or Superintendent contact information.

USDA Foods

terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov

October Monthly Order

The October Monthly Order runs from the 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 Delivery Schedule

The School Year 2026 PFG delivery schedule is now on the FDP webpage of our website. Scroll to the PFG dropdown to find the link.

PFG Deliveries

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

October Survey Coming Soon!!!

There are changes to the October Survey so be sure to attend the webinar on **October 7, 2025 at 1:30pm** to ensure that reporting is done accurately.

FYI - The October Survey is an additional edit check to monthly claims, therefore, the accuracy of this report is extremely important.

Once it is open, **EVERY SPONSOR MUST** complete the October Survey.

Use this [link](#) to register for the October Survey webinar.

Financial Open Office Hours with Jodi

Topic: Monthly Financial Reporting
October 16th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: Time Study / Labor Hours
November 13th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: Breakfast Meal Cost Breakdown
January 15th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: TBA
February 12th, 1:30pm-2:30pm

Topic: TBA
March 19th, 1:30-2:30pm

Topic: Annual Financial Report
May 19th, 1:30-2:30pm

Please email jodi.truman@maine.gov for the link to attend.

2025 Maine Farm to Institution Summit

Registration Now Open!!

This year's event, hosted by the Maine Farm & Sea to Institution Network and the Maine Farm to School Network, builds on the legacy of the Maine Farm to School Conference and expands its scope to engage other institutional settings from K–12 schools, Early Childhood Education centers, colleges, hospitals, correctional facilities, and more.

Join institutional food leaders, producers, distributors, and advocates from across Maine to:

- Share resources and best practices in local and regional procurement
- Explore models for institutional kitchens, cafeterias, and meal programs
- Connect food service, educators, and policy makers for collective impact
- Discuss policy shaping farm to institution efforts in Maine

Save the date: October 14, 2025 · Location: Colby College, Waterville, ME

Register now: <https://www.mainefarmtoinstitution.org/mef2isummit25>

[Sign up for MEFTI's newsletter to stay up to date with event and program details](#)



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 be sure to register to ensure that we have
enough space for everyone.

**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.

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.**

Registration Deadline - October 3, 2025



Local Foods Training Taste Tests with Local Foods

October 21, 2025

10:00am-1:00pm

Child Nutrition Culinary Classroom
90 Blossom Lane
Augusta

Join us for our first in-person local foods training of the school year!

This training will highlight keys to leading a successful taste test using local foods! We will highlight recipes using HOM ingredients and put on our own taste test! Districts that attend a monthly local foods training will be eligible for an additional \$1,000 in reimbursement for the Local Foods Fund!

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.

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

Maine Green Schools Symposium

November 7, 2025

8:30am- 3:00pm

Thomas College

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) is thrilled to announce Maine's first-ever Green Schools Symposium—a groundbreaking event celebrating climate education and sustainability leadership across Maine's schools.

This unique, statewide gathering will bring together school leaders, educators, and community stakeholders for a full day of networking, resource sharing, and cross-sector collaboration. [Please register here](#) and attend to hear inspiring stories of school-led sustainability efforts and explore practical tools for improving energy efficiency, cutting facilities costs, and creating healthier learning environments.

The Symposium will offer four workshop tracks: *Leadership, Facilities, Curriculum, Career Pathways*

Limited funds are available to subsidize the cost of substitute teachers and transportation for schools to reduce financial barriers to attending the symposium. Please reach out to Lucy Van Hook at Lucy.van-hook@maine.gov if financial assistance is needed to attend the symposium. Contact Hours of Maine educators are also available.

Shout Outs!!

Kittery Celebrates Maine Harvest Lunch Week

From Whitney Thornton

All our schools featured Maine Products and Farmers all week. Our biggest hit was- Pineland Farm Burgers, Potato wedges from Nooney Farm, Corn on the cob from Zachs Farm, Apples from Giles Farm, Blueberries from Wymans and the Oats from the Maine Grains

Hard work... but a big success!



Thank you for sharing Whitney!!

York Celebrates Maine Harvest Lunch Week

From Whitney Thornton

York Enjoyed Harvest Week...while utilizing local farms and everyone loved it. We had Zachs Farm corn which kids helped shuck at a couple of the schools. Pineland farm burgers, Giles Farm Apples, Nooney Farm carrots, Maine family farm pulled pork and the good crust pizza... all of it was delicious and enjoyed by students and staff!



Thank you for sharing
Whitney!



Lisbon Celebrates Maine Harvest Lunch Week

Lisbon took full advantage of the abundance of fresh and local offerings during Maine Harvest Lunch Week. Some highlights from the week: students from 4th and 5th grade classrooms helped shuck 550 ears of corn! Former Senator Tory Jackson was also on hand to witness the great things happening in school meals and to join discussions on preserving school meals for all in Maine.



Thank you for sharing,
Allison Leavitt!!