

# Child Nutrition Thursday Update

## In this week's Thursday Update

You can scroll through or click on a title below and you will be taken to that page.

Welcome to this week's edition of the Child Nutrition Thursday Update! The Thursday Update is your one stop to stay informed about all the updates, changes and exciting things happening in the National School Lunch Program.

Prepping for your USDA Annual Order

USDA Foods Monthly Ordering

Farm to School Cook-off

Afterschool Snack Program Onsite Monitoring

From the USDA

School Breakfast Week

CACFP Week

Child Nutrition Training

Serving Up Science

# USDA Foods

## Prepping for Your Annual Order

[terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov](mailto:terri.fitzgerald@maine.gov)

These steps must be completed before the Annual order can be set up.

**Once ALL schools complete this task the SY2025 Annual survey can be opened.**

### Sponsor and Delivery Location Sheets for 2025

The Annual order cannot be opened until all districts update both their sponsor application and delivery location sheets. Both sheets have all the information on them from the previous year, please make any corrections to them. All sponsor applications must be in **Approved** status prior to **Wednesday, February 7, 2024**. The Status begins in "*Pending Submission*" and moves to "*Approved*" The delivery location sheets Status begins in "*Pending Submission*" and moves to "*Pending Approval*". DOE will only be approving the delivery location sheets.

Once all the sheets are in approved status follow the steps below:

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

Select: FDP- (Food Distribution Program)

Program year 2025

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

↓ Bottom of Form

## Sponsor Summary Acton Public Schools 2

Sponsor Info Activity

Applications Entitlement Surveys Allocations Inventory Orders Invoicing

### Sponsor Application Sheets

	Number	Name	Revision	Status	Approval Date	Action
+	2	Acton Public Schools	2	Approved	09/14/2023	<a href="#">View</a> <a href="#">Revise</a>

### Delivery Location Information Sheets

	Number	Name	Revision	Status	Approval Date	Action
+	3	Acton Elementary	1	Approved	09/14/2023	<a href="#">View</a> <a href="#">Revise</a>

↑ Top of Form

Select: Applications tab. **This is a Two-step process.**

1. Select **Sponsor Application sheets**, select edit, make all necessary updates, enter in emails, check off #45, submit. Status will go from Pending Submission to Approved status.
2. Select **Delivery location information 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.
3. Any questions, please call Terri Fitzgerald at 624-6882.

# **USDA Monthly Order**

The Monthly order is open each month from the 1st - 15th  
There are step-by-step instructions on the USDA Food  
page on our website.

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## **Important Notes about Monthly Orders**

If you don't place your orders monthly or skip a few months, all of those items that you requested before the start of this school year will be delivered to you in May. At that point, no order can be refused or sent back to the PFG warehouse.

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### **Extra Items**

Have you checked out the extra items that are available?

These can be found under the Allocations tab, "Add Surplus"

- After you request extra items, follow the previous steps for monthly ordering to add to your delivery.
- If this step is not taken, you will not receive the extra items the following month and those extra items will appear on the very next monthly order.
- If the steps were followed, the extras will arrive in the monthly order delivery.



# Farm to School

## Cook-off 2024

**Register your team by**

**February 16, 2024!!**

**Only one competition!!**

May 7, 2024 from 11am-2pm at  
Central Maine Community College

Teams will prepare two lunch dishes,  
One using local *Tofu*, the other local *Chicken*

**Space is limited to 8 teams**

**To register your team, please complete [this form](#).**

More information regarding the cook-off can be found on our [website](#).

If you have questions about the cook-off,  
contact Stephanie, Katie or Michele

Stipends are available; \$100 for food - \$50 in supplies

# Required Onsite Monitoring of the Afterschool Snack Program

If your SFA is operating the NSLP Afterschool Snack Program an onsite monitoring visit must be completed twice a year, within the first 4 weeks of program operation and again before the end of the year. If you have not yet completed the second onsite monitoring review, now is the time! A sample review form can be found on our [website](#).



# From the USDA

Two exciting new features have been added to the Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (FBG) Interactive Web-based Tool. Both features are available under the Tools menu on the toolbar:

- **Interactive flow chart on using the preparation yield walks users through when to use the Preparation Yield factor in the Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW).**
- **An Ounces to Pounds Calculator allows users to easily convert ounces to pounds and pounds to ounces to make converting units a breeze!**

New foods are available in the FBG! New additions consist of USDA Foods frozen mixed vegetables and a variety of meat items including 11-, 43-, and 48-ounce pouched tuna; boneless, skinless chicken thighs; ground mutton, mutton shoulder chops and stew meat; catfish fillets; and USDA Foods canned pork. Stay tuned for additional yield data releases. Team Nutrition appreciates receiving your comments on the FBG and works continuously to enhance the user experience. Explore the [Food Buying Guide](#) today!

# HOT off the Press from USDA!

After years of successful implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), on September 26, 2023, FNS published a final rule, Child Nutrition Programs: Community Eligibility Provision-Increasing Options for Schools, with an effective date of October 26, 2023. The final rule lowered the minimum Identified Student Percentage (ISP) threshold from 40 percent to 25 percent. As a result, more students, households, and schools have the opportunity to experience CEP's benefits, such as increasing access to school meals at no cost, eliminating unpaid meal charges, minimizing stigma, and streamlining meal service operations.

FNS is hosting webinars to provide an overview of the Community Eligibility Provision for interested School Food Authority staff.

**Webinar for School Food Authorities: Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 2:00 PM EST. Please register for the Zoom webinar [[here](#)]**

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*As a reminder we have scheduled our own Maine webinar for your benefit 3 times! Be sure to attend one of these training to learn about the program and the application process. Registration links are available on our [home page](#)*

February 26th at 1:30pm on Zoom

March 5th at 10am on Zoom

March 15th at 10 am on Zoom



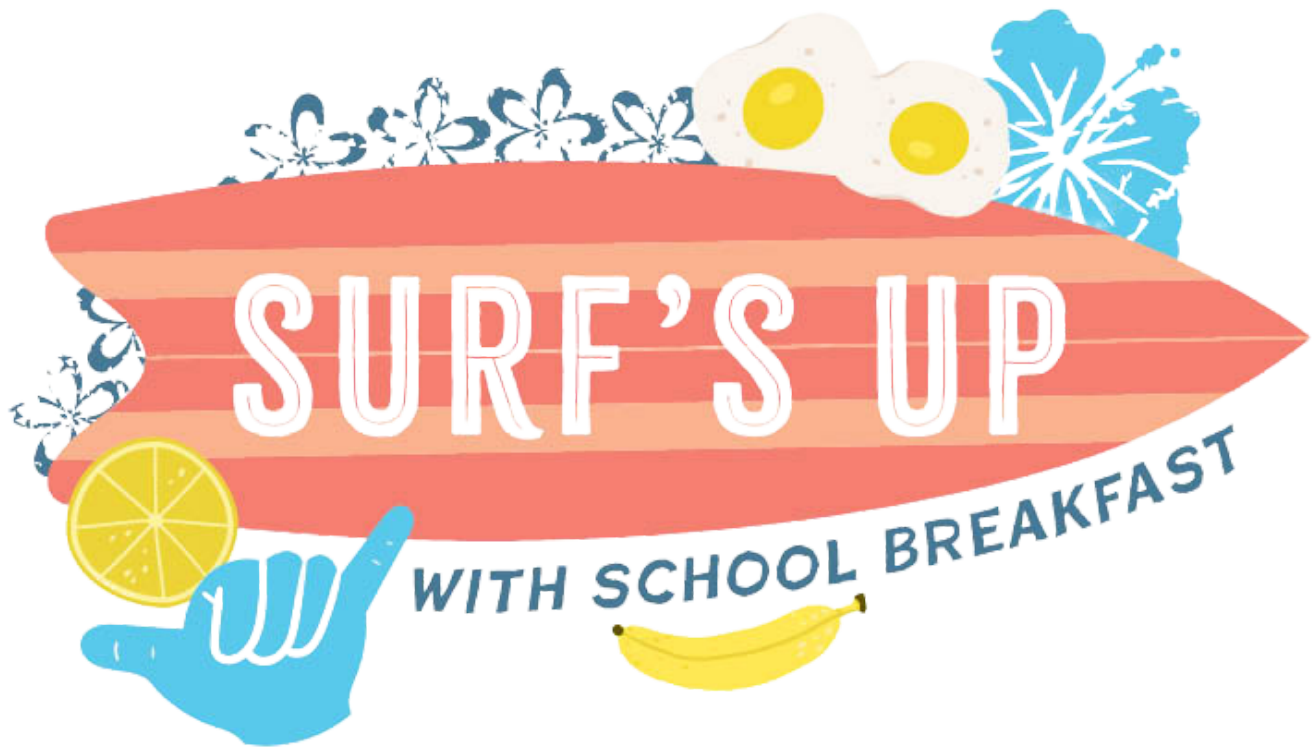
# USDA Visits

USDA is looking for opportunities to  
visit your program

Do you have something special planned for  
National School Breakfast Week, CACFP Week or  
National Nutrition Month?

Let us know, and we will pass it along!





## **School Breakfast week is March 4th-8th**

Last year Maine schools provided nearly 11 million breakfasts through the National School Breakfast Program.

Every March, the nation celebrates National School Breakfast Week (NSBW), which was launched in 1989 to raise awareness of the availability of the School Breakfast Program. School Breakfast Week is about promoting nutritious breakfast menu items! During this week, schools put their breakfast programs on display to increase awareness for these accessible and healthy meals. This year the Nations School Nutrition Association has created this beach theme for Schools can download and promote their programs. Please check it out to promote your program!

# National CACFP Week is March 10-16, 2024



**CACFP Week is a national education and information campaign sponsored annually the third week of March by the National CACFP Sponsors Association.**

**The campaign is designed to raise awareness of how the USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program works to combat hunger. The CACFP brings healthy foods to tables across the country for children in child care centers, homes, and afterschool programs as well as adults in day care.**

**You can participate by helping spread the word about the CACFP!**

**Visit our [Campaign page](#) to download resources for spreading awareness in your classrooms, your community, and at the state level. We also invite you to be active on social media - participate in our [Social Media Challenge](#) for a chance to win \$100 and have your #CACFPCreditable snacks featured on our website or tell us how you're participating in CACFP Week by submitting your story to [CACFP Week in Action](#).**

# Child Nutrition Training Opportunities

Registration links are in the title or  
can be found on our website

## Link to recent webinar

If you missed the Financial Reporting webinar,  
the recording is linked below.  
It can also be found on our website.

### Financial Reporting

The recorded webinar and pdf file of Jodi's presentation can be  
found on the Financial page of our website, under the  
Financial Reporting dropdown.



# Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

USDA has changed the qualification to participate in CEP. It has gone from 40% to 25%.

We will be offering three webinar opportunities for Districts to learn:

**\*How to Participate in CEP**

**\*What you need to do for your District or group of schools within the District to participate.**

CEP removes the need for collecting applications and completing the Verification process for 4 years.

February 26, 2024 - 1:30pm

March 5, 2024 - 10:00am

March 15, 2024 - 10:00am

A recording of the webinar will be available on our website



# Two Day ServSafe Manager

## Class and Exam

david.hartley@maine.gov

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:00am-3:00pm

Wednesday, February 21, 2024 - 8:00am-Noon - Testing

Bucksport High School Library

102 Broadway

Bucksport

\$102/person - Registration ends **February 2, 2024**

- The class is for school food service 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.



# Summer

## Summer Meal Options for SFAs Webinar

School Food Authorities are in a great position to feed children over the summer months when school is not in session. During this webinar, SFAs will learn about the variety of options available to provide meals to children over the summer months. Program examples include the Summer Nutrition Programs (group dining with the Summer Food Service Program and pick-up or home delivered meals in rural areas with the Summer Food Service Program), the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option and traditional National School Lunch Program over the summer months. Join DOE to learn more about these programs and make the best decision to feeding your students over the summer time.

March 7, 2024

1:30pm

# Serving Up Science

Kansas State University is excited to host a second session of Serving up Science: The Path to Safe Food in Schools this June. The in-person program will take place June 24-28, 2024 at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

If selected, all cost incurred for travel to and from Manhattan, Kansas is the responsibility of the participant or their employer. Other program expenses, including meals and lodging are provided Monday evening through noon on Friday while participants are in Manhattan.

The nominated individuals must complete the nomination form by March 1st, 2024. Notification of acceptance to attend the program will be sent by March 11th, 2024. Please send a letter of interest to [Jane.mclucas@maine.gov](mailto:Jane.mclucas@maine.gov) by February 16, 2024 to receive the nomination form.