



In Good Taste



**UPDATE FROM NCDA & CS FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION
WINTER FEBRUARY 2011**

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Gary Gay, Director

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoyed their holidays. It was tough getting back in the groove after the New Year. With the New Year upon us, there are many challenges ahead, waiting for us. I am sure you are preparing to begin ordering your commodities in NC ECOS. Please remember the ordering is for July 1 through December 31, 2011 and the deadline is February 7, 2011. The next cycle of ordering for the remainder of the



2011-2012 SY will come sometime in March or April 2011. USDA will notify us when this will take place and then we will notify you by a NC ECOS Alert. This all hinges on USDA getting WBSCM ready for implementation, so stay tuned.

You have noticed many cancellations of USDA commodities for the current year. USDA has experienced a lot of difficulty in purchasing, rising food prices has made them rethink many bid contracts for commodities and with the twelve percent rule which has added even more entitlement dollars to your account; has left many schools scrambling to spend their remaining entitlement dollars. We are currently trying to work with USDA to come up with some avenues to help schools spend their remaining money.

I am sure you have seen the Institute of Medicines (IOM) proposed nutrition standards for school meals. These standards are set to take effect school year 2012-13. Currently these standards are open for public comment until April 13, 2011. I would strongly encourage you to comment on these proposed standards because they will have quite an effect on school lunch and breakfast as we now know it.

The *2010 Dietary Guidelines* is available at www.dietaryguidelines.gov.

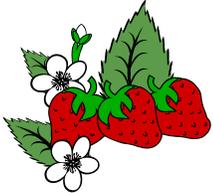
Wow, the challenges never quit coming, I guess you could say it makes our days interesting to say the least.



USDA Bonus Dried Cherries – Update

Good news if you like dried cherries. It only took a year for the vendor to come around and see it USDA's way. Graceland Cherry Corp. finally delivered the last of three truck loads of replacement dried cherries at the end of November.

We thank you again for your patience, as this continued to be drawn our by Graceland. Watch you 209 Reports for replacement quantities, as we plan to replace the quantities we picked up from the districts that had the bad product. Watch for commodity code A292B on your 209 Report. This is a different code number than those we picked up and returned to the vendor. This is due to different packaging.



NC FARM - TO - SCHOOL NEWS

Ted Fogleman, Assistant Director

The month of January has been an incredibly difficult time for our warehouse operation here at Food Distribution. The snow, sleet, and ice did not affect any incoming deliveries of USDA commodities but it sure did put a stop on deliveries of school foods and Farm-to-School produce. Unfortunately we had already picked up apples, sweet potatoes, and collards the weekend before the wintry weather arriving on Monday. Well needless to say, schools were closed and we were stuck with fresh produce that could not be shipped. The apples and sweet potatoes are very hardy items, so they held their quality much longer than the fresh cut collards. Some schools were closed the entire week, so a lot of the produce could not be shipped until the next week. When we meet with the Farm-to-School advisory committee this spring, I am sure we will discuss not planning items in the winter months with a short shelf life like those fresh cut leafy greens.

The next delivery of NC Farm-to-School will be bagged apple slices and jumbo sweet potatoes the weeks of February 6th and March 6th. Frozen sweet potato chunks will be delivered the week of April 3rd. If you are interested in placing an order, please give me a call or send an email to ted.fogleman@ncagr.gov. Everyone's favorite "strawberries" will close out the school year with deliveries throughout the month of May. We also will offer blueberries as well as some new items: romaine lettuce, squash, and zucchini.

I also want to let you know that we have added a new member to the NC Farm-to-School team, her name is Heather Lifsey. Heather comes to us from the Ag Extension offices in Chowan County, where she served as a director. Heather will be working in the downtown office in our Marketing Division. Part of her responsibilities will be the promotion of Farm-to-School into your cafeterias, so if you need any assistance in incorporating NC produce in your menus, she can be reached at 919-707-3127 or heather.lifsey@ncagr.gov.



NC Farm to School Calendar Contest Rules



Please see next page for rules and entry form.

Contest Purpose:

To create a positive learning experience for elementary students about North Carolina agriculture that increases their knowledge of where food comes from and how agriculture impacts our daily lives.

Contest Deadline

- **Entries due MAY 1, 2011**

Entry Details:

- The contest is open to public school students in grades K-6.
- Students’ art work must be original. Creativity and lots of color are encouraged.
- Artwork entered in the contest should feature North Carolina agriculture. The calendar will highlight the diverse agriculture throughout the state.
- Markers, crayon, watercolor, ink, pencil, acrylic, tempera paint or colored pencils can be used. **No pastel, chalk or 3-dimensional art.**
- **SIZE: Entries must be 11 by 8.5 inches, HORIZONTAL pictures only.**
- Entries must be on paper that will allow duplication, scanning and display. Entries must be flat. Do not fold, matte, mount, laminate or frame art. Use of cartoon characters or TV figures is not acceptable.
- An official entry blank or copy **MUST** be completed and securely taped to the back of each entry. Please do not staple forms to artwork. Make sure each entry is filled out completely and that writing is legible.

- Mail entries to: NCDA&CS Horticulture Marketing Division, 1020 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1020.
- All entries will become the property of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and will not be returned. NCDA&CS reserves the right to publish the entries in future publications without additional compensation, in any manner and at its sole discretion in all advertising materials. If you have questions, please call 919-707-3127 or visit our website, ncfarmtoschool.com.

Awards

- Each student who enters the contest will receive a personalized certificate of participation.
- Fourteen students will receive a \$50 savings bond and their artwork will be in the 2011-12 NC Farm to School Calendar and featured on the Farm to School website.

2011 Official Entry Form NC Farm to School Calendar Contest

Student’s Name: _____
 Description of Picture: _____
 Grade Currently In: _____
 Teacher’s Name: _____
 School Name: _____
 School Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____
 Teacher Email: _____
 School Phone: () _____

By submitting your entry you agree to the contest conditions.

ACDA

The American Commodity Distribution Association will be holding their Annual Conference in New Orleans on April 30 through May 3, 2011. You may go to www.commodityfoods.org for more information.

WELCOME

New Child Nutrition Administrators

Join us in welcoming these new CN Administrators to their new positions. We extend a warm welcome and look forward to working with them.



Jacquelin Higgs, Child Nutrition Director - Bertie County Schools
Leann Seelman, Child Nutrition Director – Pitt County Schools
Monica Adams, Child Nutrition Director - Watauga County Schools
Stefanie Almond, Child Nutrition Director – Stanly County Schools
Michelle Puckett, Child Nutrition Director – Roanoke Rapids Graded School District
Denise Moody, Child Nutrition Director – Graham County Schools

If we have overlooked anyone in this edition, please contact us to ensure we have been notified of the change. We will see that it makes the next edition of the newsletter.

A Fond Farewell

Lori Ward has been an important part of the Food Distribution Team since August, 2001. Initially, she worked in the Field Services section before transferring to the Procurement and Allocation section. As an Information Processing Assistant I, Lori was the friendly and knowledgeable voice on the phone when you called about 209s, entitlements, or surplus. Lori will be moving to the New Bern area with her husband in a couple of weeks. Her last day with Food Distribution is January 20, 2011. We wish Lori all the best! She will be missed!

2011 USDA COMMODITY ACADEMY

We will be holding our USDA Commodity Academy on February 9 and 10, 2011 at our office in Butner. This training is centered on an intense look at how the USDA program works in our state. Come learn how you can make the commodity program work as an asset to your program. The training is intended for new child nutrition directors, supervisors and those who work with NC-ECOS, however, all are welcome. I encourage you to attend, it never hurts to take a refresher course. The training will be conducted over two days and we will make it very enjoyable. I hope you will join us in February to take advantage of this training opportunity.



2011 MARCH ACROSS CAROLINA

It is not too early to mark your calendars for our annual USDA Commodity Food Show.

November 9, 2011 Expo Center, NC State Fairgrounds
November 10, 2011 Hickory Metro Convention Center

Our Raleigh location has changed to the Expo Center with the training to be held in the Hall of Fame room in the Jim Graham building next door to the Expo Center.

Registration will be from 8:30 a.m. till 9:00 a.m. with a USDA training session on commodities from 9:00 a.m. till 10:00 a.m. with the Food Show starting at 10:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. We are expecting a large number of vendors again this year. Processing continues to grow each year in this state and it would be beneficial for you to attend this show to see first hand and to sample the commodity processed foods our vendors are offering.

Call Bob Sitton or Allison Medlin with questions.



ACRONYM LIST

ACDA - American Commodity Distribution Association
AMS - Agricultural Marketing Service
CND - Child Nutrition Division
DoD - Department of Defense
ECOS - The Electronic Commodity Ordering System
FDA - Food and Drug Administration
FDD - Food Distribution Division
FNS - Food and Nutrition Service
FFAVORS - Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Ordering and Receipt System
FSIS - Food Safety and Inspection Service
SNA - School Nutrition Association
SY - School Year
USDA - United States Department of Agriculture



Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture
Gary W. Gay Director of Food Distribution
Bob Sitton.....Editor/Administrator for Field Services
Allison MedlinPublisher

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Food Distribution Division, 2582 West Lyon Station Road, Creedmoor, NC 27522

Send any changes or comments to:
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services – Food Distribution Division
P. O. Box 659, Butner, NC 27509-0659

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