



In Good Taste



**UPDATE FROM NCDA & CS FOOD DISTRIBUTION DIVISION
WINTER JANUARY 2009**

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Gary Gay

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. We are well on our way for planning for the upcoming year, and look forward to doing our best to serve our recipient agencies. So, it's back to work with a lot going on and new challenges!



By now, you should have received several ECOS Alerts concerning bonus chicken and frozen blueberries, as well as the Alert for ordering your 2009 – 2010 commodity items. Please make note of the due dates for entering/ordering your commodities in ECOS.

Budget cuts for the foreseeable future appear inevitable – they are painful for all of us. NCDFA Food Distribution has charged with showing budget cuts of 3 percent, then 5 percent, and now 7 percent - we are hopeful 7 percent will be the last. We are tightening our belts by reducing travel expenses, equipment purchases, and holding operating costs to a minimum. We regret having to reduce our participation in the recent NC – SNA Industry Conference in Asheville and we may find the same situation when the NC – SNA Annual Conference meets in Greensboro in June. These are hard decisions, but during tight economic times, necessary choices. We will get through this!

Best Wishes to everyone for A Happy New Year



COMMODITY OUTLOOK

USDA Commodity Pricing

Gary Gay, Director

It looks like stormy weather for commodity food prices in the coming year. While we have recently witnessed fuel prices hit a high of over \$4.00 per gallon, and then back to under \$2.00 gallon; it appears the outlook for commodity prices may be just about as unpredictable in the foreseeable future. Economists have blamed higher fuel costs for the increase in food prices, but we have not seen food prices fall in conjunction with falling fuel prices. A comparison of January 2008 and January 2009 commodities, finds most food items with price increases and few price decreases. So where can we look for a “silver lining” in the clouds? Indications for improvement may come if fuel prices continue to remain moderate during through the coming months – allowing growers and processors time to recover.

USDA Commodity Outlook for the Remainder of School Year 08-09

As our recipient agencies are aware, USDA pushed back a number of food orders that were to be received in the state from August through November 15, 2008. NCDA is now receiving notification of receipt of some of those orders. January through March will be heavy with deliveries provided the USDA purchases are on track.



STATE BID UPDATE

Check out the Food Distribution website to see commodity processing bids for cheese that are now posted. We plan to have pricing for the remainder of the commodity bids posted on the website by February 16, 2009. If you have questions, or need assistance in this area, please contact our office and ask for Tysha Sherard.

As a reminder: Please establish a written plan, with criteria, of how your district will award bids for commodity processed food items.



IT'S TIME FOR ECOS ORDERS

Yes, it's that time of year again! Commodity items for the 2009 – 2010 school - year will soon need to be entered. This year you will find 117 commodity items from which you can choose to spend your entitlement dollars.



Please make note of the following deadlines:
February 20, 2009 – Cheese, some turkey products, fruits, and vegetables must be entered.
March 20, 2009 – Final date for entering all orders.

You can find a copy of the upcoming commodity items listed on the NCDA website at www.ncagr.gov/fooddist.

Please call our office if you need assistance.



NC FARM - TO - SCHOOL NEWS

Ted Fogleman, Assistant Director

As many of you know, NCDA & CS Food Distribution Division was one of the very first agencies in the country that operated a Farm-to-School program. Since 1997, with the first delivery of strawberries, we have partnered with the Department of Defense in procuring NC produce for the school lunch program. Now that DOD has privatized their end of the business, we (NCDA&CS) have taken over the NC Farm-to-School program entirely.

NCDA&CS is the purchasing agent for the schools, and are following federal procurement regulations in the purchasing of all NC products. As we are rapidly approaching the end of the school year, we are very pleased with the participation thus far, but we can always take on more. I would like to remind those who do not participate, there is no delivery fee from our pickup locations to your warehouse or distributor. NCDA&CS will deliver on Mondays or Tuesdays after pickup over the weekend to insure the best quality possible. Please check out the prices, they are very competitive. If you have any questions, contact Ted Fogleman.



NC Farm-to-School Strawberries and Blueberries

Prices have already been set for spring strawberries - \$13.00 per flat 8/1 pint clamshell container and blueberries - \$22.00 per flat (12/1 pint clamshell container)



Strawberry delivery is planned for the weeks April 27th, May 4th, and May 18th

Blueberry delivery is planned the week of June 1st

Order forms will be emailed no later than April 1st.

We look forward to serving you fresh North Carolina grown Strawberries and Blueberries!

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### **!!!!!!! NC FARM-TO-SCHOOL ALERT !!!!!!!**

NCDA & CS Budget and Finance office has informed us that there are many unpaid Farm-to-School invoices from 2008. Our NC growers must be paid from deliveries made to the school districts. If you have any outstanding Farm-to-School invoices please remit payment to:

North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
Accounts Receivable Department  
1001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001  
Attn: Sue Kearney/ Farm-to-School

If you have any questions concerning payments please contact Ted Fogleman at 919-575-4490.

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CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME

Child Nutrition Retirees

From all of us at NCDA&CS Food Distribution Division, congratulations and know that we wish each of you the very best in your retirement. We thank you for your contributions and leadership in feeding the children of your respective counties.

Jerry Davis, Richmond County Schools, January 2009

Donna Bommer, Jackson County, February 2009

Sandy Brooks, Haywood County, March 2009

Joann Harrell, Bertie County Schools, March 2009



New Child Nutrition Administrators

Join us in welcoming these new CN Administrators to their new positions. We look forward for the opportunity to assist each one as they settle into their respective counties.

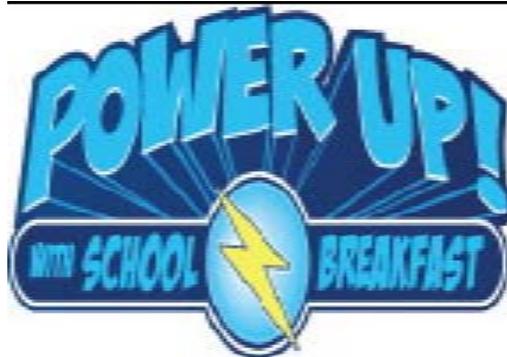
Angela Griffin, Anson County Schools

Shirley Pelletier, Washington County Schools

Lois Hood, Richmond County Schools

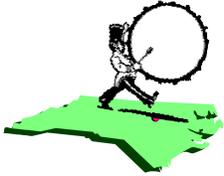
If we have overlooked you in this edition, please contact us to ensure we have been notified of the change and we will see that you make the next edition of our newsletter.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK



WWW.SCHOOLBREAKFAST.ORG

MARCH 2—6, 2009



2009 MARCH ACROSS CAROLINA

It is not too early to mark your calendars for the upcoming March Across Carolina. We will be marching from the coast to the mountains. See schedule below:

Tuesday, November 3, 2009 - Riverfront Convention Center, New Bern, NC

Wednesday, November 4, 2009 - Dorton Arena, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC

Thursday, November 5, 2009 - Hickory Metro Convention Center, Hickory, NC



2009 USDA COMMODITY ACADEMY

The NCDA&CS Food Distribution Division staff is getting excited as our 2009 Commodity Academy is just around the corner. We have had to change up the schedule this year in order to condense our lesson plans to a one day event. Our staff will be preparing a great lunch for this class so after graduations, all of our graduates will return to their programs with a wealth of USDA commodity knowledge. The Academy will be held on February 12, 2009 in Butner.



EXTENDED AND EXPANED RECALL - PEANUT CORPORATION OF AMERICA (PCA)

Thursday January 29, 2009, FNS issued a recall notice through the ECOS Rapid Alert System that involves a limited amount of USDA commodity product that was included in the retroactive and expanded scope of the recall of Peanut Corporation of America (PCA) products, which was announced by FDA last night.

The PCA announced Wednesday, that it was extending the recall deadline back to the production date of January 1, 2007 to the recent closure of the plant due to the confirmation of its connection to the large Salmonella Typhimurium outbreak currently under investigation. PCA also expanded the scope of products affected, which caused a small quantity of USDA commodity roasted peanuts and peanut butter to become part of the recall.

The ECOS announcement went to affected State Agencies and Regional Office contacts for those SDAs. North Carolina is ***not*** on the affected list. As occasionally happens, product may have been moved from a location known to the ECOS system to a location not visible in ECOS. All State Agencies need to be aware of the following products and be sure that they did not receive any. Only products coming from the PCA plant in Blakely, GA are affected by this recall. All lot numbers from this plant begin with a “7” or an “8” or a “9.”

Who is affected: In California, Idaho, and Minnesota, a limited amount of smooth peanut butter and roasted peanuts in #10 cans were affected.

In Georgia, TEFAP received roasted peanuts in 12 oz packages, again, not a large quantity.

FDPIR received roasted peanuts in 12oz packages, which was distributed through the national warehouses in Kansas City and Carthage, as well as one directly to an ITO in New Mexico. The distribution of goods through the multi-food program will be forthcoming when the distribution chain has been identified. No other programs or products are affected.

Instructions: Locations receiving the ECOS recall announcement have been instructed to identify any affected product, label and sequester it, assure that it is not distributed or consumed, and report the quantity and location of the product on the ECOS Recall Response Form.

Instructions on disposal of the product will be forthcoming.

The fact that this recall is **retroactive over a two-year period** should mean that **most of the products have been consumed**. There are no reports of illness related to the consumption of USDA-purchased products.

Check for Commercial Purchases: Although the scope of USDA commodity involvement in this recall is limited, FNS programs may have purchased PCA products commercially. Therefore, all USDA nutrition assistance program operators should be asked to check for any product that might have been purchased through commercial channels.

For the latest developments on the FDA investigation, including recalls and advice for consumers, visit FDA’s Web page on the *Salmonella* Typhimurium Outbreak at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>

FDA has also created a searchable database for these products, which can be found at <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>

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## 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
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Gary W. Gay ..... Director of Food Distribution  
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Allison Medlin .....Publisher

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