

DATE: January 10, 2012

TO: School Food Authorities (SFAs) Participating in the USDA Foods (Commodity) program

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IMPORTANT: USDA Foods Annual Order Update

USDA has just informed the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) regarding important information on the procurement of USDA Foods for the 2012-13 school year (SY).

Turkey Roasts, #100125 (A537) and Chicken, Oven Roasted, #110080 (A494)

As schools are aware, USDA continues to experience difficulties in the purchasing of turkey roasts and oven roasted chicken. Therefore, in an attempt to improve the purchasing of turkey roasts and oven roasted chicken, USDA is revising their procurement method for these two products.

Based on processing capacity and availability, USDA will be procuring both of these USDA Foods prior to making them available to states for ordering. After procurement, USDA will then offer these products to states on a fair-share basis.

Therefore, turkey roasts and oven roasted chicken will not be offered on the SY 2012-13 annual order survey. Instead these two products will be offered to schools on a fair-share basis as they become available from USDA during SY 2012-13.

Since USDA is unsure how much, if any, of these products they will be able to procure, DPI does not recommend schools saving entitlement dollars for these two products. Rather, schools should commit as close to their full entitlement as possible on SY 2012-13 USDA Foods annual order survey.

If and when these products become available during SY 2012-13, DPI will offer these products to all schools regardless of their remaining 2012-13 entitlement balance.

Fruits and Vegetables

In addition, USDA continues to experience difficulties in the timely procurement of fruits and vegetables. As a result, USDA will not be making available the vast majority of fruits and

vegetables until December 2012 delivery. Therefore, on the SY 2012-13 annual order survey, schools will not have the option of receiving the majority of USDA fruits and vegetables until December 2012 delivery.

Bulk fruits and vegetables will also be affected by this new procedure. As a result, there will be a delay in the shipment of bulk USDA Foods to processors. This delay may affect the receipt of your finished end products. Therefore, all schools participating in direct diversion processing during SY 2012-13 should confirm the negative inventory policy with each of their procured fruit and/or vegetable processors.

USDA is continuing to explore options for improving the procurement of fruits and vegetables. DPI will provide additional information on the procurement of fruits and vegetables as it becomes available from USDA.