# DATE: December 2021

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

FROM: DPI USDA Foods Team, School Nutrition

SUBJECT: Wisconsin USDA Foods Cheese Processing Program

For the School Year (SY) 2022-2023, SFAs have the option of participating in the Wisconsin USDA Foods Cheese Processing Program. This program gives SFAs the opportunity to order pounds of USDA Food item 110244 Cheese Mozzarella Bulk on the annual order survey in February 2022, to be sent to a properly procured processor. SFAs determine the processor(s) they will utilize for their selected pizza like finished end product through a competitive procurement process.

When calculating the number of pounds to commit to the processor(s), each SFA will want to commit as close as possible to what their SFA will use during the school year. Carry over will not be allowed at the end of SY 2022-23 as the [DPI’s Inventory Sweep Policy](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/inventory-sweep-policy-sy22-23.pdf) indicates.

Throughout SY 2022-2023, the finished pizza like end products will be ordered through the SFA’s distributor(s). These products are eligible for a rebate for the amount of USDA bulk cheese contained in each case of product. Your SFA will complete a rebate request form and submit the complete form to the processor(s). Rebate checks will be issued by the processor and mailed directly to the SFA. Once you have utilized allocated pounds of the USDA bulk cheese for your selected processor(s), you are no longer eligible for a rebate on purchases.

Please review the following documents found on the DPI website for more program information.

1. Summary of the program and the necessary steps.
2. [Inventory Sweep Policy for Direct Diversion Processing and Cheese Processing](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/pdf/inventory-sweep-policy-sy22-23.pdf)
3. [Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Cheese Processing Program](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/school-nutrition/doc/cheese-processing-faq-sy22-23.docx)
4. List of company information on the participating processors:

**110244 Cheese Mozzarella Bulk - List of Eligible Processors**

Bernatello's Pizza, Inc

ConAgra Foods

ES Foods

The Fathers Table

Nardone Brothers Baking

S.A. Piazza

Schwan's Food Service

Tyson/Bosco's

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is offering two processing programs, and the Cheese Processing Program will be available through both processing programs: 1) state processing or 2) direct diversion processing. On the Wisconsin USDA Foods Annual Order Survey, interested SFAs will choose one order survey program, state or direct diversion. All eligible cheese processing processors will be listed on both orders. The participating SFAs will select the processor(s) and will indicate the bulk 110244 cheese pounds for order.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact dpisnusdafoods@dpi.wi.gov or (608)256-4599.