# **Wisconsin USDA Foods Cheese Processing Program**

## School Year (SY) 2022-23

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) offers all School Food Authorities (SFAs) receiving USDA Foods the opportunity to participate in the Cheese Processing Program. SFAs participating in this processing program experience a very successful approach to providing pizza products that students enjoy, as well as a cost-effective way to utilize entitlement dollars. The variety of available products and delivery through commercial distributors are key factors to the success of this program.

The Cheese Processing Program will be available in SY 2022-23. Participating SFAs must use a competitive bid process to determine the vendor(s) whom they will order pizza and pizza-type finished end products from, and commit pounds of bulk mozzarella cheese to on the annual order

**Approximately the first part of February 2021:** All SFAs receive information regarding the USDA Foods Annual Order as well as the website address containing details for the Cheese Processing Program. Based upon procurement outcome, nutritional information, yield information, and approximate rebate amounts included in this packet, SFAs determine how many pounds to commit to procured vendor(s). The SFA will want to base the number of bulk pounds of mozzarella cheese to commit calculated on the estimated pizza product(s) usage for the entire school year.

**During the SY 2022-23 USDA Foods Annual Order timeframe:**SFAtakes above information, selects their procured vendor(s) and enters the total bulk pounds of mozzarella cheese needed for the school year. **Please note**: SFAs will be required to follow DPI’s Inventory Carryover Policy

The following example shows how this program can benefit the SFA participating in this program:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| USDA Donated Food (DF)  | End Product Price without DF | Dollar Allowance per pound/DF | Pounds of DF Product per Case | Rebate Per Case | End Product Net Price using DF |
| Mozzarella | $57.50 | $1.6208 lb. | 5.68 lbs. | $9.21 | $48.29 |

Please note: the above example is based on USDA’s 11/15/2018 mozzarella cheese price.

**SY 2022-23:** Beginning July 1, 2021, SFAs can place orders for their pizza products through their distributor(s). Delivery schedules of these products will be agreed upon between vendor(s), distributor and school. SFAs will be required to complete a rebate form and submit to vendor(s). Rebate checks will be sent to the SFAs directly from the vendor(s). Once the SFA has used the total amount of bulk mozzarella cheese committed to vendor(s), the SFA is no longer eligible for a rebate on the products ordered from the vendor(s).

Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Claire Nagel, 608-267-9283 or Laura Paella 608-266-2596.