

Commodity Shelf Newsletter

January/February/March 2011

Long Time, No Newsletter

Happy Holidays, Happy New Year, Happy Valentine's Day, and Happy St. Patrick's Day. Wow, has it been busy here in the DESE – SFS office and we apologize for not publishing a newsletter the last two months. We hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season and survived Snowmageddon 2011. We have lots of updates, so make sure to read the whole Newsletter.



Commodity Expos 2011 Recap

A big THANK YOU is deserved for Deanna House (Waynesville), Octavio Pino (Francis Howell), Brenda Dwyer (Fort Osage), and their incredible staff for hosting another round of successful Commodity Expos January 26-28, 2011. There were a record number of registered participants (400) for the three day event. Each day we had a great meeting and conversation about the Donated Food Program followed by sampling of processed items available for SY 11-12. If you were unable to join us this year, please keep your eyes open for next year's events, which will again be scheduled mid-late January.



Processing Packets SY 11-12

Processing Packets were due to the DESE – SFS office February 4, and the majority of schools were able to meet the deadline regardless of the massive snow storm that week. DESE – SFS is in the process of compiling all of the information to send to the processors and hopes to have all of the information ready by mid-March. Once the information is compiled, we will send the info to each processor who will then break down the orders into monthly deliveries for all of SY 11-12. If the processor you chose allows you to choose your delivery schedule, look for that information

to arrive mid-April. If you have not received information you were anticipating by late April, contact the representative located on the bottom of the copied order sheet in your files.

If your Local Education Agency (LEA) chose to receive Ground Beef (A608), Cut-Up Chicken (A515) or Sliced Frozen Apples (A346), then you can plan to receive your allotments on the following schedule:

SY 2011 – 2012 Prorated Schedule:

Ground Beef (A608):

- 25% in September 2011
- 25% in November 2011
- 25% in January 2012
- 25% in March 2012



Cut-Up Chicken (A515)

- 50% in September 2011
- 50% in January 2012



Sliced Frozen Apples (A346)

- 100% in November 2011

If your LEA checked the box to Not Process, then you will receive all three of the above items. If your LEA processed some or all of the above items, then the amount you receive during the above time frames will depend on the selections you made on the Processing Packet. If your LEA completed the OPTIONAL Processing Packet, then the total amount of lbs submitted for each of the above Donated Foods will be divided according to the above schedule. If you have any questions, contact the DESE – SFS office and we will be happy to assist, 573-751-2646. Should your LEA decide they no longer want to receive their elected amounts of the above three Donated Foods, Email donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov and we will remove you from the Distribution Lists.

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Salsa – A237

LEAs ordered A237 Salsa in January for February distribution; however the shipments were delayed by the USDA vendor and not received in time for February distribution. The intention was to send A237 Salsa to LEAs in March, but I (Matthew Essner) made a mistake when compiling orders to send to the warehouse and forgot to include the information on the March distribution. I didn't figure this out until the first two weeks of March deliveries were already routed; therefore, LEAs who ordered Salsa in January will receive the Salsa during weeks 3 and 4 of March deliveries and weeks 1 and 2 of April.

The remaining inventory of A237 Salsa is available on the [April Open Order](#). Please check the [Open Order Adjusted Quantities for March](#) to determine how much, if any, A237 Salsa you will receive in March/April and order accordingly. LEAs who receive delivery during weeks 1 and 2 of April will receive the **combined** amount of Feb and April orders on their April commodity truck.

Nardone's Rebate

The SY 10-11 rebate form for [Nardone Bros. Pizza](#) is now available on the [DESE – SFS Website](#) under the [Rebate Forms](#) bullet. We apologize for the delay in posting the rebate form. Rebates for all Nardone Bros. products ordered from July 1, 2010 to the current time can be submitted to the address listed on the rebate form.

Please submit all rebate forms in a timely manner because all balances of USDA Donated Foods at processors participating in the Rebate Program are **first come, first serve**. If the State of MO runs out of lbs with any of the participating processors, rebates will no longer be available for the remainder of the school year until additional USDA Donated Foods can be ordered against the next school year's entitlement. Feel free to contact our office, 573-751-2646, with any questions you may have about the Rebate Program.

Mrs. Clark's Salad Dressing

LEAs receiving deliveries during weeks 1 and 2 of March did not receive Mrs. Clark's Salad Dressing (# 52900) because the item was logged with the wrong code when it was receipted by Food Distribution Associates. The orders have been backordered and will be delivered in April.

Proposed Nutritional Guidelines

USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) proposed new nutrition standards for the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program on January 13, 2011. An Administrative Memo ([FAS-11-002](#)) with links to the proposed rule was sent out by DESE and can be found here: <http://dese.mo.gov/am/fas/>.

We strongly encourage looking at the proposed nutrition standards and providing **IMPORTANT!** comments back to USDA by **April 13, Your Opinion Matters 2011**. LEAs have discussed many of the proposed changes with our office including:

- Cost to offer the proposed amounts of fruits and vegetables for both lunch and breakfast
- Classification of vegetables and limitations of "starchy" vegetables
- Maximum sodium levels
- Using a single Food Based Menu Planning (FBMP) approach vs. the current **option** of FBMP or Nutrient Standard Menu Planning
- The requirement of **50%** of grains being whole grain when the final rule is implemented and 2 years post implementation **ALL** grains offered must be whole grain

This is a *proposed* rule, and will not go into effect immediately. USDA will evaluate the comments and make changes as needed. It is anticipated the *final* rule will be released in January 2012, making the new meal pattern requirements the official guideline for the 2012-2013 school year. If you would like more information, please contact Matthew Essner at 573-522-1974 or matthew.essner@dese.mo.gov.

A350 Applesauce

DESE – SFS was shorted 4 trucks of A350 – Applesauce which were supposed to be shipped to LEAs in March. DESE – SFS has since been contacted and informed the 4 trucks will not be purchased by USDA due to vendor shortages. The Entitlement expected to be used will roll over into SY 11-12 for the purchase of additional USDA Donated Foods.

Check the **MARCH** Open Order Adjustments

[HERE](#)

<http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/documents/March11OrderAdjustmentsforWebSite.pdf>

SY 2011 – 2012 Plans/Budget

The budget for USDA Donated Foods has been planned for SY 11-12. The budget determines the lb allocations/entitlement amounts for the Processing Packet, Monthly Processed items offered, Rebate items, as well as the planned purchases for the Open Order. The [ANTICIPATED Open Order schedule for SY 11-12](#) is now available on the [DESE – SFS Commodities Website](#). There were some adjustments made when budgeting for SY 11-12, and we would like to explain the reasoning behind each decision.

1. The budget for fruits and vegetables was increased. LEAs expressed interest in many of the frozen fruits and especially the individual frozen cups. There will also be more offerings, and higher quantities, of canned fruits and vegetables to try and alleviate the storage problems caused by offering items only one time a year. Some examples:



- Frozen strawberry cups will be offered 3 times, frozen peach cups offered twice and frozen apricot cups offered once.
- 17 trucks of canned green beans will be offered over 3 different months in 11-12 vs. 14 trucks offered twice in 10-11.
- 21 trucks of canned mixed fruit will be offered over 3 different months in 11-12 vs. 10 trucks offered twice in 10-11.
- 20 trucks of canned sliced peaches will be offered over 4 different months in 11-12 vs. 11 trucks offered twice in 10-11.

2. All grain products offered will only be whole grain. The new proposed nutrition guidelines are working towards more whole grain consumption and schools have expressed difficulty in finding some whole grain pastas commercially. Whole grain macaroni has been added to the list of whole grain pastas available for SY 11-12.



3. Decrease budget for processed oil. Vegetable oil will still be available each month via Open Order. DESE – SFS is working to provide nutritious options to assist schools in keeping their food cost as low as possible, and the oil processed in MO is used primarily for condiments. Also the proposed nutrition guidelines have minimum and maximum calorie targets. *“Therefore, to stay within the*

*calorie ranges specified in this proposed rule, schools would have to offer lean meats/meat alternates, fat free or low-fat fluid milk, and **other nutrient-dense foods**”* (taken from proposed nutrition guidelines).

4. Quantities have been planned to offer reduced fat sliced American cheese (yellow) each month, reduced fat sliced American cheese (white) every other month, Lite shredded mozzarella available each month, reduced fat shredded cheddar every other month, and mozzarella loaves available each month. 
5. Attempts were made to increase protein items (i.e. oven roasted chicken, chicken fajita meat, diced chicken, pork roasts, deli turkey, ham, etc.) offered each month as well as increase quantities. Should additional entitlement become available from USDA, these items are generally the first to be made available and will be increased more. 
6. 2 trucks of sunflower butter (vs. 1 in SY 10-11) are ordered and should be available all school year.

Correspondence with many LEAs indicated offering a wider variety of items each month on the Open Order was helpful this school year. Adjustments will be conducted in the same fashion for SY 11-12 as they were for SY 10-11; however order data was available for most items planned for SY 11-12, therefore attempts were made to bring in quantities to fill requests closer to 100% should orders submitted in SY 11-12 be similar to orders during SY 10-11.

Please refer to the [ANTICIPATED Open Order schedule for SY 11-12](#) before placing Open Orders to see if an item will be offered at a later time. Ordering fewer quantities each time an item is offered should help with storage complications and assist in filling 100% of orders submitted to DESE – SFS.

Prorated Donated Foods SY 10-11

Com Code	Delivery Period	DF Value
A608	Sept 10 – Complete	\$ 73.16
A608	Nov 10 – Complete	\$ 70.62
A608	January 11	\$ 98.42
A608	March 11	\$ 106.30

- **A608** – Ground Beef, Frozen, 4/10 lb

**FYI: As you can see by the Value of A608 throughout SY 10-11 above, commodity prices are increasing and the fluctuation of fuel prices will play a factor for SY 11-12. I bring this up because the same amount of Entitlement will most likely not purchase the same amount of commodities as in SY 10-11.

Meet Randi Fernsler

DESE – SFS was finally able to add a much needed team member to the Donated Food Section last fall to join Matthew, Amy and DeeDee.

Randi (Randell) Fernsler has a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics and Nutrition from the University of Central Missouri where she was also an All American Women's Soccer player and studied one semester in Australia at the University of Newcastle. Randi was originally from the St. Louis area and recently



lived at the Lake of the Ozarks before locating to Jefferson City to begin working with DESE - SFS. Randi's enthusiasm for dietetics and desire to succeed are tremendous assets to the Donated Food Program, as well as her work ethic, team mentality and determination for excellence which were stand out qualities noted by previous employers. Randi is extremely excited about the opportunity to be a part of our team as we work to provide the LEAs of Missouri with the tools and products they need to produce nutritional and economical meals for the students of Missouri. Randi will be our Processing Specialist handling the processing aspect of the USDA Donated Food Program. Randi has been enormously influential in putting Processing Packets together, answering questions, and now compiling all the data from the LEAs to forward on to the processors.

Feel free to contact Randi via Email at: randi.fernslers@dese.mo.gov or you can call Randi at 573-751-7253.

Got Beans?

DESE – SFS recently received a recipe for a 3 bean salad from Patti Turner with the Kirbyville School District. A PDF file of the [Kirbyville 3 Bean Salad](#) can be found on the [Recipe of the Month](#) bullet of the DESE – SFS Commodities Website. There is also a NutriKids file for any LEAs practicing the Nutrient Standard Menu Planning option and using the NutriKids software. Patti says "Gotta love those commodity beans baby....oh yeah!"



A745 Tuna

DESE – SFS has received a few complaints from LEAs about the A745 Tuna pouches shipped during February. There have been multiple reports of single pouches busting at the seam. The cases received have no apparent damage to the case, but upon opening, LEAs are finding one or two pouches have busted. Please Email DESE – SFS, donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov if you had any pouches busted so we can report the problem to USDA to avoid this situation in the future.

Quotes for the Month

"Life is not a matter of holding good cards, but sometimes, playing a poor hand well." – Jack London



"The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one." – Mark Twain

"The second best decision in time is infinitely better than the perfect decision too late." – Omar Bradley

"If you aren't making any mistakes, it's a sure sign you're playing it too safe." – John Maxwell



"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." – William Aurthur Ward

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Monthly Orders should be submitted to:

donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov

FDA (Angie Jackson or Karen Fry):

866-473-9700 or 816-833-2000