



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

**SUMMER FOOD SERVICE WEEK**  
June 4–10, 2006

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By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

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**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS** for more than two months every year, schools close their doors for summer vacation, and as a result millions of children who depend on school meals to meet a substantial amount of their daily nutrient needs lack access to school nutrition programs; and

**WHEREAS** this lack of access to basic nutrition is most pronounced among the Nation's poorest children, who frequently have no alternative to school meals; and

**WHEREAS** Congress established the Summer Food Service Program to ensure that children can continue to receive nutritious midday meals on school playgrounds and in parks, camps, and other sites where they traditionally gather during summer vacation; and

**WHEREAS** Congress specifically targeted the administration of this program to sites located in poor areas, defined as areas in which at least 50 percent of children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals; and

**WHEREAS** far too few children take advantage of this important program, which serves fewer than 15 percent of the children who receive free and reduced-price meals during the school year; and

**WHEREAS** to address this situation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been working actively to increase the number of eligible schools, community and faith-based organizations, and other sponsors who offer the program to their communities; and

**WHEREAS** these efforts include making significant reductions in the paperwork associated with administering the program through the Simplified Summer Food Program and streamlining the school meal programs with summer meals by way of the Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of the important efforts of organizations sponsoring summer meal programs, to heighten public awareness of the benefits of summer meals for poor communities, and to encourage additional eligible sponsors to participate, I, Mike Johanns, Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim June 4–10, 2006, as Summer Food Service Week. I call upon communities to recognize the important achievements of schools and organizations that sponsor summer meal programs and to ensure that children and their parents are aware of this benefit. I also strongly urge additional eligible schools and organizations to make this vital component of the nutrition safety net available in their communities.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of March, 2006, the two-hundred thirtieth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns".

**MIKE JOHANNNS**  
Secretary