



Bulletin

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Commodity Recap for Schools 2004

Attention All States:

Commodity Updates for Schools

Following are summaries of some of the recent events surrounding the National School Lunch Program commodities as of August 30, 2004:

Fruit and Vegetables: The new Bonus Raisin survey will close on September 9. In addition, we have opened the 4th and final set of fruit and vegetable entitlement surveys, which close on September 22. These surveys are for fresh grapefruit, fresh oranges, fresh pears, canned beans, and dry beans. We have no definite plans to offer additional entitlement fruits and vegetables; however, if inventories exist during the winter months, we will attempt to offer and purchase additional fruits and vegetables at that time.

Livestock: AMS awarded a total of 11 out of 23 trucks of Bonus Salmon Pink-PCH (A804) for the 9/15/04 and 9/30/04 delivery periods. AMS was willing to issue an invitation for the remaining 12 trucks, but the supplier did not have enough to offer. Since the funds will expire by September 30, 2004, AMS will use the remaining funds to purchase pink salmon packed in 14.75 ounce cans for households programs. Beef prices have been running slightly higher than previous years on some products and there is no information on when they may stabilize.

We are currently out for bid on the new commodities such as the boneless beef combo and the beef cooked commodities (breaded patties, beef sloppy joe mix, beef crumbles, beef taco filling, and the beef breaded patties). We are pretty much on schedule for the pork commodities with exception to the cooked pork and the catfish strips. We will be behind by maybe two deliveries for both due to not enough approved suppliers for the programs. States will be notified by email on specific delivery period information as soon as it is available.

Poultry: We are behind on cut up chicken due to pricing and vendors unable to supply enough product to meet the orders in the system. The bulk chicken is slightly behind the desired schedule, because of high pricing by some vendors. Orders for other chicken products have been purchased earlier than the requested delivery periods. We do expect chicken prices to decrease during the fall and winter months, but do not expect them to decrease to last year's prices. We are slightly behind on the deli turkey breasts and turkey roasts, but are slowly catching up. Egg products are on schedule.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email them to Lisa.Glasoe@fns.usda.gov.