



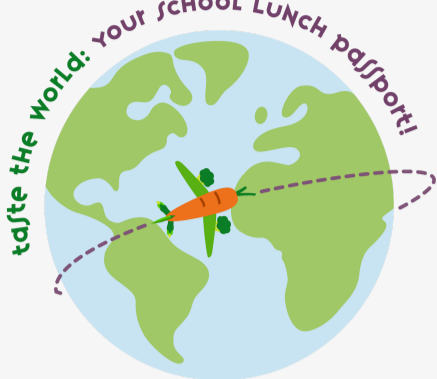
School Nutrition Programs

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

This weekly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is dedicated to providing education, training, and technical assistance opportunities to school nutrition professionals, helping to ensure seamless operations for those participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) Child Nutrition Programs. If you are the food service contact for your school or facility, please be certain that everyone on your team has access to this important information.

Tip of the Week

**Happy National School Lunch Week!**  
Share your fun ideas and promotions from National School Lunch Week! The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will compile a scrapbook with school submissions. Please submit your photos with the school name and description to [Gretchen Huntzer](#). Remember that photos of children’s faces cannot be submitted without media release information on file.



Important Updates

**Recent Commercial Food Recalls, USDA Foods are Not Affected**  
The following message contains important information about two commercial recalls that may affect schools. **These recalls do not involve USDA Foods.**

Recently, two manufacturers – [Hillshire Brands Company \(Sept. 27\)](#) and [Foster Farms \(Oct. 4\)](#) – recalled corn dog products that may be contaminated with extraneous material, specifically pieces of wood embedded in the batter.

**Recalled products were not part of food distributed by the USDA for the National School Lunch Program.** However, the products may have been purchased by some schools through commercial channels. Consumers and institutions, including schools, who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

Farm to School

**Farm to School Month**  
Call to action for the week of Monday, October 20, through Friday, October 24: feature a farmer. If you are serving local foods this week, use our [template](#) to highlight the product and the farmer! As always if there is a specific template or resource you would like us to create, please email [f2s@doe.in.gov](mailto:f2s@doe.in.gov).

**Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program Update with Local Food**  
You might have noticed more Indiana produce rolling onto the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System (FFAVORS) catalog. In total, 368 schools have purchased local Indiana produce through DOD Fresh. Products from Noah’s Poplar Produce (Salem), Lobenstein Family Farm (Saint Leon), and Family Farm Fresh (Rockville) are available for purchase. Starting this month, you will be able to see the exact farm you are getting product from on the [What Chefs Want Farm to School Local Order Guide](#). This increases single-farm traceability in large-scale distribution. Be on the look out for more products like sweet potatoes, winter squash, and acorn squash coming soon!

**School Highlight**  
One of the ways Beech Grove City Schools Food Service Department is celebrating Farm to School Month is by participating in Indiana Apple Crunch. They planned an apple-based menu featuring Indiana local apples and held a lucky tray day, with the winner of the lucky tray getting a special prize. The menu featured pancakes with baked apples; chicken, apple, cheddar salad; turkey, apple, swiss sandwich; apple glazed chicken biscuit; and cheddar apple panini.



USDA Foods

**DOD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program**  
As a reminder, schools must enter their DOD Program receipts into the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Order Receipt System [FFAVORS](#) within two calendar days after the produce is delivered to your school.

Training and Webinar Opportunities

**Upcoming Webinars**

- Basic Knife Skill Technique, Thursday, October 16, at 2 p.m. ET
- Verification Processing (repeat session), Tuesday, October 21, at 10 a.m. ET.
- Essential Knife Skills for Veggie Prep, Thursday, October 23, at 2 p.m. ET
- Knife Techniques to Enhance Fruits, Thursday, October 30, at 2 p.m. ET

Read more about these topics and register [here](#).

Please note: Artificial Intelligence (AI) notetakers must be disabled when attending an online training webinar or meeting hosted by IDOE’s School and Community Nutrition team.

Updates from Our Partners

**Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) Virtual Instructor-Lead Training (VILT)**  
This October, join the Institute of Child Nutrition’s VILT sessions—interactive, expert-led opportunities designed to strengthen your knowledge and skills in child nutrition programs.

- Staff Training and Engagement for Sodium Reduction Success, Thursday, October 16, at 1 p.m. ET. Register [here](#).

Upcoming Dates



Monday, October 13, through Friday, October 17	<a href="#">National School Lunch Week</a>
Friday, October 17	Last day to order <a href="#">Apple Crunch</a> materials
Thursday, October 30	<a href="#">Final August Claim Date</a>

### Additional Resources

[School Nutrition Programs Calendar](#)  
[IDOE’s Nutrition Webpage](#)  
[CNPweb](#)