POLICY ALERT

Date: March 20, 2008
Reference: # SFSP 2008-6
To: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors
Subject: Crediting of Corn Meal (Cornmeal) and Corn Flour for Grains/Breads Component
Effective Date: July 1, 2008

Purpose
This Policy Alert REVISES Item 4156, Grains/Breads Requirements of your SFSP Handbook.

Implementation
July 1, 2008

Background
To be credited as a grains/breads component for Food-Based Menu Planning approaches, grain products must be enriched or whole grains, or made from enriched or whole-grain meal and/or flour. Bran and germ are credited the same as enriched or whole-grain meal or flour. In the past, corn meal (cornmeal) and corn flour were allowed to be counted as a whole grain for crediting grains/breads. This is because the standard of identity for “corn meal” and “corn flour” was interpreted as yielding a whole grain.

Procedure
The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that “Degerminated and bolted cornmeals should not be considered whole grain products because germ or bran has been removed during processing. Because the rest of the meal (flour) standards allow removal of some of the hull, these also should not be considered whole grain products.”

This clarification by FDA of the standards of identity for “corn meal” and “corn flour” indicated that these products will no longer be considered as whole grains in the SFSP or any other United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs.

Therefore, beginning July 1, 2008, to be credited toward meeting meal pattern requirements, corn must be labeled as:

1. “Whole corn” (or other “whole” corn designations, such as whole grain corn, whole ground corn, whole cornmeal, whole corn flour, etc.); or

2. “Enriched” corn (or other “enriched” corn designations, such as enriched yellow cornmeal, enriched corn flour, enriched corn grits, etc.).

continued

This Policy Remains in Effect Until Further Notice
Authority
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Correspondence 2008-CN-02

Contact
If you have any questions please contact your Food and Nutrition Field Operations Office.