POLICY ALERT

Date: March 12, 2010
Reference: # SFSP 2010-05
To: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Contractors
Subject: Geographic Preference for the Procurement of Unprocessed Agricultural Products in the SFSP
Effective Date: Immediately

Purpose

CLARIFICATION of procuring unprocessed locally grown or raised agricultural products.

REPLACE Item 7650

Implementation

Immediately

Procedure

Replace Item 7650 with the following:

The National School Lunch Act (NSLA) has been amended to allow organizations receiving funds through the Child Nutrition Programs to apply geographic preferences when procuring unprocessed locally grown or locally raised agricultural products. The procuring entity is responsible for defining “locally grown,” that is, state county region, etc. It is important that local preference should not be defined in a way that limits competition.

This geographic procurement preference can only be applied to products that are locally grown and locally raised. “Unprocessed locally grown or locally raised agricultural products” means only those products that retain their inherent character. Handling and preservation techniques that shall not be considered as changing an agricultural product’s inherent character are:

- cooling, refrigerating, freezing;
- size adjustment through size reduction made by peeling, slicing, dicing, cutting, chopping, shucking, and grinding;
- drying/dehydration;
- washing;
- the application of high water pressure or “cold pasteurization;”
- packaging (such as placing eggs in cartons) and vacuum packing and bagging (such as placing vegetables in bags);
- butchering livestock, fish and poultry; and
- the pasteurization of milk.

NOTE: Milk is the only dairy product for which geographic preference may be applied, and must be pasteurized and meet state and local standards.

continued

This Policy Remains in Effect Until Further Notice
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Procedure continued</strong></th>
<th>The option to allow geographic preferences when procuring unprocessed locally grown or locally raised agricultural products does not eliminate the requirement for procurement to be conducted according to the policy and procedures outlined in your program handbook.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authority</strong></td>
<td>SP-08-2010, Geographic Preference for the Procurement of Unprocessed Agricultural Products in the Child Nutrition Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>If you have any questions please contact your Food and Nutrition Community Operations office.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>