NOTICE

Date: September 19, 2008  
Reference: # NLSP/SBP 2008-15  
To: National School Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program (NSLP/SBP) Contractors  
Subject: Applying Geographic Preference in Procurement of Unprocessed Locally Grown or Locally Raised Agricultural Products

Purpose

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.

This preference can only be applied to products which are locally grown and locally raised, and that have not been cooked, seasoned, frozen, canned or combined with any other products. This does not preclude foods that have been handled and prepared to make them usable, such as washing vegetables, bagging greens, butchering livestock and poultry, pasteurizing milk and putting eggs in a carton; as well as using a minimal amount of preservatives to prevent spoilage.

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

The option to allow geographic preferences when procuring unprocessed locally grown or locally raised agricultural products does not eliminate the requirement for procurements to be conducted according to the policy and procedures outlined in your program handbook.

Contact

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