NOTICE

Date: September 19, 2008
To: Special Milk Program (SMP) 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.

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.