

## Check in with CANS

### September 4, 2025, 2:30PM CT/1:30PM MT

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### Welcome!

#### All Program Reminders or Updates:

Staffing updates (Mikayla)

#### Farm to Child Nutrition Reminders or Updates (Janelle):

**Farm to School Crunch Off.** In celebration of Farm to School month, States throughout the Mountain Plains (CO, MT, MO, KS, NE, ND, SD) compete to see which State can get the most “crunches” into locally grown produce. While the focus is on fruits and vegetables, States can also have Crunch Off events that crunch into locally grown meat, beef sticks, grains like popcorn, South Dakota Crunch Off events occur anytime from September 15-Oct. 31. Communicate this opportunity to students, teachers, parents, community members, local school clubs, sporting events (think local popcorn!) Register to host a crunch [event](#), and then register your crunches before the end of October. Don’t forget to share the opportunities to participate and events themselves on social media, print media, school announcements, newsletters, and local media.

**Harvest of the Month Resources** are available on the [F2S website](#). 17 meal components are available to assist highlighting local food on your menus and provide resources for classrooms to engage as well. It’s a perfect time of the year to highlight watermelon, cantaloupe, beets, potatoes and apples.

#### Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Reminders or Updates:

**(Rebecca) CACFP iCAN Applications.** Applications are open for program year (PY) 2025-2026. Complete approved applications are **due on October 10, 2025**.

- The [CACFP iCAN Sponsor User Manual](#) is on the [CANS CACFP page](#) under the Applications for the Child and Adult Care Food Program tab. Follow this manual to fill out your application to avoid delays. It has answers to common questions and tips to avoid common errors.

**\*\* Remember that when you are putting in your August and September claims, you will have to switch back to program year 2024-2025 as iCAN will default open the 25-26 year.**

**CACFP Annual Training Reminder – Due Sept. 30, 2025.** All agencies are required to participate in annual training each program year (October 1- September 30). If your agency has not met the annual training requirements (see table below for requirements) for this program year, you have until September 30 to complete the training. As a reminder, failure to complete the annual training will result in your agency being declared Seriously Deficient. These trainings can be found on our [DOE Professional Learning Platform website](#) or download our printable [Professional Learning Platform Guide](#). For more information regarding training, please see the [CACFP Annual Training Requirements](#).

## School Nutrition Program (SNP) Reminders or Updates:

**(Melissa) September 2025 North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Kitchen Counter Conversations- Meal pattern Overview.** Online & recorded training on Meal Pattern Overview- Review readiness September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (CT). This training will sharpen your understanding of the latest meal pattern requirements and equip you with the tools to breeze through your next review [Register Here](#).

**(Diana W) National School Lunch Week is Oct. 13-17, 2025.** "Taste the World: Your School Lunch Passport!" is the theme for National School Lunch Week this year. This annual event was established by President Kennedy in 1962 to highlight the importance of healthy school meals. This year's theme encourages students to explore foods from around the globe. For ideas on how to bring this theme to life, visit the [School Nutrition Association website](#). Please let us know how you plan to celebrate and send us pictures!



**(Diana W) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP).** The first allocation for FFVP awards ends on September 30th. All funds from the first allocation should be allocated by that time. Funds from the first award cannot be carried over to the second award, which begins on October 1. Reach out to Diana Webb or Diana Leiseth with any questions

**(Susan) Field Trip Meal Service Requirements.** All lunches that are claimed for reimbursement must meet the daily meal pattern requirements. Students must have access to all five required food components. If students self-select field trip lunches in the cafeteria line just prior to leaving for a field trip, offer versus serve may be implemented. Meals must be counted at the point of service, the place at which students receive the meal. Schools may have a teacher check off names on a list as each student receives a meal. This list must then be returned to food service so the meals can be entered into the meal counting system and properly recorded for claiming. Another option for schools is for students to select a bag lunch at the cafeteria and enter their PIN before leaving on the field trip. Counts of bag lunches sent or returned or field trip attendance counts may not be used as a meal count. For guidance on keeping "bag" lunches safe, check out this USDA resource by clicking [here](#).

**(Susan) Meal Modification Requirements.** Schools and institutions in USDA school nutrition programs must provide reasonable meal modifications for children with disabilities that restrict their diet. If the modification does not meet USDA meal pattern requirements and the SFA claims the meal, families must provide a medical statement explaining the child's impairment, the needed accommodations, and any foods to omit with suggested alternatives. Use CANS' updated [Meal Modification Request Form](#) to ensure compliance. For more guidance, see FNS' [Modifications to Accommodate Disabilities in the School Meal Programs](#).

**(Diana W) After School Snack Program.** SFAs participating in the After School Snack Program must complete an On-Site Review at each site within the first 30 days of operation. A second On-Site Review must be completed at each site before the end of the school year. The monitoring form can be found on our website or accessed [here](#), and additional resources such as the [Snack Meal Pattern Chart](#) and [Grain-Based Dessert Guidance](#) are also available to support program compliance.

**(Melissa) Verification of Free and Reduced Applications.** You can begin verification now. You must begin verification activities no later than October 1. Although you can start the process early, your Verification sample pool must include all approved Free and Reduced Applications on file as of October 1. CANS will present a Verification Process webinar on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2:30-3:30 pm (CT) via Zoom [Join Zoom Meeting](#) ID: 998 6606 3465.

## USDA Foods in School/Food Distribution Program Reminders or Updates (Christina):

**USDA Food October Order.** The next USDA Food order opens on September 8, please make sure that your iCAN FDP information is up to date to ensure the appropriate individuals receive the order email.

## **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and SNP Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Reminders or Updates (Darian):**

**(Darian) Summer 2025** has officially wrapped up. As we close out the season, the CANS team is wrapping up reviews and would love to hear from you. Your feedback is incredibly valuable in helping us understand what worked well and how we can improve the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) moving forward.

Please take a few minutes to complete our short [survey](#) by October 10, 2025.

## **Upcoming Trainings or Calls (Kristi):**

**Check in with CANS Zoom calls** occur on the first Thursday of each month at 2:30pm CT / 1:30pm MT.

- New [Zoom](#) link for SY2025-26 – Meeting ID: 994 1571 3462
  - The next call will be Thursday, October 2

**On Demand Training From CANS.** We are transitioning all trainings into the DOE online professional development platform and removing them from the CANS websites. Current training videos can be found on the [Professional Learning Platform](#). Use the categories drop down to select Child and Adult Nutrition Services to filter training options. Enroll in your selected training videos. If you are looking for old *Crash Course with CANS* training videos, they are all under Crash Course with CANS simply enroll to access the entire list of short training videos.

**Thank you for joining us today and for your service feeding children across South Dakota!**