

## Check in with CANS

### October 2, 2025, 2:30PM CT/1:30PM MT

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## Welcome!

### All Program Reminders or Updates:

**Government Shutdown:** A lapse in appropriations for the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has caused a partial shutdown of operations as of October 1, 2025. We understand the uncertainty that these circumstances present for our schools and sponsors. Staff at the South Dakota Department of Education are all still working business as usual. Claims submitted by October 10 will still be reimbursed in October. Vendors are required to deliver any USDA Foods that were purchased prior to the lapse in appropriations; therefore, Program operators should expect to continue to receive USDA Foods deliveries during the shutdown. The situation is fluid, and we will do our best to keep you updated should this linger on.

**Net Cash Resources-transitioning back to the 3-month excess calculation:** The temporary 5-month excess calculation for net cash resources will transition back to the USDA-recommended 3-month standard, effective School Year 2026-2027 using Fiscal Year 2025-2026 financial data. This change ensures fiscal responsibility and program sustainability of capping excess balances, strengthening financial oversight, and preventing the accumulation of unnecessary funds. It is highly recommended that Sponsors review current cash reserves throughout the year and adjust budgeting practices to reflect the 3-month limit as needed.

### Claim Due Dates - 10th of the following month & 60 days final deadline:

- Claims are due in the iCAN system on the 10th of the month (e.g. September claim is due by October 10).
- For all programs: SNP, SFSP, CACFP, including Sponsors of DCH
- A final claim for reimbursement shall be submitted no later than 60 days following the last day of the full month covered by the claim. (e.g. August claim final claim date would be October 30)
- More information can be found at the following links:
  - [CANS Claim Date Reminder](#)
  - USDA Guidance for Local and State Agencies on the [60-Day Claim Submission Manual](#)

### Farm to Child Nutrition Reminders or Updates:

**FY 26 Farm to School Grant.** [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) is now open! This competitive grant will fund innovative farm to school projects ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000 for a total of up to \$18 million. Eligible entities include state and local agencies, Tribes, child nutrition program operators, small- to medium-sized agriculture producers, groups of agricultural producers, and nonprofits. **Deadline for submitting an application is December 5.**

New this year: USDA is encouraging applicants to propose larger-scale projects—the minimum amount you can request is \$100,000. If you are looking to submit an application, I would encourage you to reach out to small to medium sized agricultural producers, groups of small to medium sized agricultural producers, nonprofit organizations, food hubs, etc. If you have questions about the grant, contact [anna.arrowsmith@usda.gov](mailto:anna.arrowsmith@usda.gov) and [sm.fn.farmtoschool@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fn.farmtoschool@usda.gov). Please spread the word to any of the eligible entities I referred to above.

**October is Farm to School month** and hosting a Crunch Off event is a great way to celebrate. Visit the Farm to School [Crunch Off](#) webpage to print off a “I Crunched” Sign or have some fun with a Photo Frame. The Crunch Off is a fun, annual competition by our Mountain Plains Regional states that promotes the consumption of local produce. Anyone can participate! [Registering](#) your crunches is the only way SD receives credit for people who “crunch”. Last year, we had 6,562 crunches from 15 cities. Let’s beat that number!! The Crunch off runs through Oct. 31.

The **Harvest of the Month** resources are ready and waiting for you. Apples are a great resource to highlight this month on your menus! They are SO many cool facts on the [Apple Fact Sheet](#), as well as some great [trivia questions](#) to get conversations started on one of your students most popular fruits. For instance, one of the trivia questions is: Where are Apples Grown in the United States? And Fun Fact...did you know there are 7,500 different varieties of apples worldwide? 15 different food items from each of the meal pattern components i represented in these resources. Send me some pictures of how you’re utilizing this resource, and we’ll post it to some of our DOE social media channels.

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

**PY 2025-2026 Applications are due Friday, October 10.** Please complete your CACFP iCAN application at your earliest convenience. All applications must be fully approved by Friday, October 10. You will not be able to submit an October claim until your application is approved. Applications will be reviewed and approved in the order that they are received. You may use the [CACFP iCAN Application Manual](#) for assistance in completing your application.

We are aware of, and working to fix, a glitch within the system with the Checklist Items. When you click the link for the template, it brings you to an error. To get to the forms, you will need to go to Applications and then Download Forms. This will list out all the forms you may need. If you are unsure which forms apply to you, please reach out to CANS.

**The new Program year has started!** As a reminder, you must complete the annual CACFP training during the program year (October 1- September 30). You can complete the training online in the DOE Professional Learning Platform or attend in person during our Pathways to Child Nutrition Conference this summer. We are working on getting the courses in the DOE Professional Learning Platform switched over for the new program year and they will be available soon.

**Added Sugars.** The previous total sugar requirements have now changed to be only added sugars. This change works to align the CACFP and SNP meal pattern requirements. These new requirements went into effect on October 1, 2025. The new added sugar guidance can be found [here](#).

	<b>Yogurt</b>	<b>Breakfast Cereal</b>
Old Limits (Ended Sept. 30, 2025)	< 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces	< 6 grams of total sugars per dry ounce
New Limits (Started Oct. 1, 2025)	< 12 grams of added sugars per 6 ounces (2 grams of added sugars per ounce)	< 6 grams of added sugars per dry ounce

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

**October 2025 North Dakota Department of Public Instruction Kitchen Counter Conversations - Added Sugars:** Cross the T’s and Dot the I’s. Online & recorded training on everything related to added sugars, including the new limits. This session will not only clarify the sugar limits and introduce calculation methods but also bring in the reviewer’s perspective—with insights on how state agencies assess compliance. The training takes place Oct.21 at 2pm (CST). [Register HERE](#).

**Verification Reporting:** Your verification activities should be underway! The Verification Process presentation is now available on the Learning Management System, under School Nutrition Programs. All apps. on file, as of Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, should be counted. ALL schools must submit a verification report by November 15, 2025. CANS will present a Verification Reporting webinar on October 29th, 2:30-3:30 pm (CT) via [Zoom](#) Meeting ID: 741 710 0063

**National School Lunch Week is Oct. 13-17, 2025.** This year's theme is "Taste the World: Your School Lunch Passport!" Celebrate global flavors and highlight the importance of healthy school meals—a tradition started by President Kennedy in 1962. Visit the [School Nutrition Association website](#) for celebration ideas! Don't forget to share your plans and photos!



**Food Safety Training Requirement:** All School Nutrition Program Directors (or those managing daily food service operations) must complete 8 hours of food safety training:

- Within 5 years prior to their start date
- Within 30 days after their start date
- Every 5 years, regardless of start date

Training may be completed either in a single session or spread out over a five-year period. Schools are not licensed foodservice establishments; therefore, state and federal law does not require a certified foodservice manager. However, staff may still take certified trainings such as ServSafe®.

Food Safety Training opportunities are available through the [DOE Professional Learning Platform](#) and the [Institute of Child Nutrition](#). Be sure to keep up with tracking and documentation and save all certificates of completion you receive.

## **USDA Foods in School/Food Distribution Program Reminders or Updates:**

**Ground Beef Update:** Due to high beef prices, USDA was only able to purchase limited loads of ground beef, which will arrive in January for South Dakota. We are sorry for any inconvenience, and the state will continue to order extra beef crumbles.

**Applesauce cups:** CANS was made aware of an SFA receiving cups of applesauce that were improperly sealed and moldy. If you are experiencing this issue, please let CANS know and include the number of cases affected. As a reminder, pictures are recommended!

**DoD Fresh/ FFAVORS Deliveries:** Make sure to inspect your deliveries on arrival and report any issues to the Vendor, DoD Representative, and CANS as soon as possible. In addition, receipt your DoD Fresh/FFAVORS orders in the FFAVORS system within two days of your delivery as USDA is unable to pay the vendor until school's have receipted their orders.

**[USDA Food Distribution Webpage:](#)** Contains numerous documents to help SFA's navigate USDA Foods (product specification sheets, DoD Fresh/FFAVORS complaint process, Food Distribution Calendar, Food Distribution Manual, etc.).

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

**Thank you for a great summer!** We'd like to thank all those who contributed and played a role in ensuring that children in our communities received nourishing meals! Please complete this short [survey](#) by October 10, 2025. By completing this survey, you are providing important information that will assist with plans for next summer.

## Upcoming Trainings or Calls:

### Upcoming In-Person Training opportunity for SNP: Fueling Futures: A Crash Course for School Meals

[Registration](#) for the Fueling Futures: A Crash Course in School Meals is now open. This training is designed for new or “newer” (3 years or less in a lead or supervisor position) head cooks, managers, food service directors, or food service leads.

- 2 ½ day course begins at 10:00 am on Wednesday, October 22 and ends at 12:00 pm on Friday, October 24.
  - Registered attendees are expected to attend all 3 days of training.
  - This training can be counted for Professional Standard training hours.
- High level overview of the USDA School Breakfast Program and the National School Lunch Program
  - Information provided will help participants navigate the first quarter in their role
  - See the schedule at-a-glance on the registration form for specific topics to be covered.
- Interactive training with a mixture of hands-on activities and lecture.

**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, November 6, 2025.

**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 at <https://sded.sd.gov/>. 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!**