

North Carolina School Nutrition Weekly Update

March 24, 2015

Issue No. 2015.3-4

In This Issue:

- ***Food Recall Notice – Blue Bell Ice Cream***
- ***2015 Farm to School Census Questionnaire***
- ***FY 2016 USDA Farm to School Grant RFA***
- ***USDA Policy Memoranda***
- ***Vacancy Announcement – Johnston County CN Director***
- *****REMINDER** FF&VP Application Important Dates***
- *****REMINDER** 2015 USDA Best Practice Awards Deadline***
- ***Continuing Education Opportunity Schedule***
- ***Important Dates***

Food Recall Notice – Blue Bell Ice Cream

[Blue Bell Ice Cream Recalls 3 oz. Institutional/Food Service Ice Cream Cups – Chocolate, Strawberry, Vanilla \(Tab Lid\) – Because of Possible Health Risk](#)

Blue Bell Ice Cream of Brenham, Texas, is recalling three 3 oz. institutional/food service ice cream cups- chocolate, strawberry and vanilla with tab lids because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Although healthy individuals may suffer only short-term symptoms such as high fever, severe headache, stiffness, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhea, *Listeria* infection can cause miscarriages and stillbirths among pregnant women.

2015 Farm to School Census Questionnaire

If you have not already done so, we want to encourage all SFAs to complete the 2015 Farm to School (F2S) Census questionnaire as distributed by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Food Distribution Division. USDA wants to make sure the data retrieved this year is as accurate as possible and reflects the robust F2S programs currently operating in the state of North Carolina.

Thank you in advance for taking time to complete the questionnaire.

FY 2016 USDA Farm to School Grant RFA

USDA is currently accepting applications for the next round of USDA farm to school grants. The application deadline is **May 20, 2015** for planning, implementation and support service grant applications. Training grant letters of inquiry are due **April 30, 2015**. For more information please see:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-grant-program>.

Information Webinar

To review the Farm to School Grant application process, there is a webinar scheduled on **Wednesday, March 25 at 1:00 pm EDT**. Click on this [link](#) for the presentation and dial 888-566-1192, passcode 5894178, for audio. No registration is required. The webinar will be recorded and will be posted on the Farm to School Grant page as soon as it becomes available.

USDA Policy Memoranda

The following USDA Policy Memo was released March 20, 2015:

SP 31-2015 Guidance on Prohibition of Separation by Gender during Child Nutrition Program Meal Service (SFSP-14-2015)

If you have any questions, please contact the consultants for your region

Vacancy Announcement – Johnston County CN Director

Johnston County Schools has a vacancy for a Child Nutrition Director. Please review the [vacancy announcement](#) for details and application instructions.

.....

****REMINDER** FF&VP Application Important Dates**

1. **Friday, March 27, 2015 at 11:59 PM**
 - **Deadline** for completing and saving a SY 2015-2016 FF&VP application (online) in the SNTS for the eligible elementary schools that wish to apply.

2. **Monday, April 6, 2015 by 5:00 PM**
 - **Deadline** for the [FF&VP Signature Page](#) with original, required signatures in **blue ink** to be received in the NCDPI School Nutrition Services Section in Raleigh.
 - **Deadline** for the new FF&VP form: "[Number of Days FF&VP Operates Weekly](#)" to be completed with original required signature in **blue ink** and received in the NCDPI School Nutrition Services Section in Raleigh. One form listing all the applying schools per LEA is acceptable. This new form was included in the electronically distributed FF&VP application packet for SY 2015-2016.

Please contact Zoe McKay-Tucker, School Nutrition Specialist at zoe.mckaytucker@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-3517, if you have questions or need additional assistance.

.....

****REMINDER** 2015 USDA Best Practice Awards Deadline**

Monday, **March 30, 2015** is the deadline for submitting Best Practice Awards Nominations. Information, details and the Nomination Entry Forms are available on the School Nutrition website at: <http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/information-resources/awards-recognition-opportunities>

.....

Continuing Education Opportunity Schedule

**NOTE* Click each title to view/download information and instructions.*

Webinars

March 25	School Breakfast: Resources to Increase Participation Webinar
March 26	Norovirus: Control Strategies and How to Handle a School-based Outbreak

Workshops

March 25	Procuring Local Produce	Carthage, NC
April 6-8	N.C. Safe Plates	Montgomery County
April 13	Procuring Local Produce	Greensboro, NC
April 17	Procuring Local Produce	Concord, NC
April 20-21	SERVSAFE® Serving Safe Food (taught in Spanish)	Rowan County Health Department

The U.S Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), found at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

"The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Under the Federal School Nutrition Program and USDA policy, discrimination is prohibited under the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.