



DPI BUREAU OF
COMMUNITY
NUTRITION

CACFP Today

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Great Apple Crunch

Join the 12th Annual Great Apple Crunch on Thursday, October 9, to celebrate Wisconsin farmers, healthy kids, and strong communities this October. Participating in the Crunch is simple: buy, serve, and Crunch into locally grown apples!

Register your Crunch today to add to the Crunch count, get the scoop on purchasing and serving local apples, and get the Crunch Guide with weekly newsletters. Noon on Thursday, October 9, 2025, is the official Crunch date, but we welcome your Crunch any time this October. No event is too small to register!

All early care centers, family day care home providers, schools, and other organizations are invited to participate. Register your organization at the [UW Healthy Eating & Active Living](#) webpage and receive helpful Crunch resources. Visit the [Apple Crunch Facebook page](#) to get updates and see photos from last year's Crunch.



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Food Holidays

September 2025 -
National Chicken Month
September 20, 2025 -
National String Cheese Day

October 2025 -
National Farm to School Month
October 4, 2025 -
National Taco Day
October 12-18, 2025 -
Farm to CACFP Week

November 2025 -
National Bread Month
November 18, 2025 -
National Apple Cider Day

New Study Shows Benefits of CACFP

The USDA recently released the second [Study of Nutrition and Activity in CACFP \(SNACS-II\)](#), offering a national overview of how the CACFP supports healthy eating and physical activity among children in care. The study found that children had better overall diets on days they attended child care compared to days they did not. Also, meals provided through CACFP generally align well with the current [Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#). However, the study also highlighted ongoing challenges for providers, including meal reimbursements not covering food expenses, lack of children eligible for higher reimbursement, and paperwork requirements.



Welcome New CACFP Agencies!

A few more agencies have been approved to participate in the CACFP for FFY 2025. Thanks for being a part of ensuring children have access to nutritious meals!

- V A Kids Center Inc.
- Cuddle Care of Howard, LLC
- Fiona's Child Care Center LLC
- Smiling Faces Daycare LLC
- Adventures to Learning LLC



Foods Commonly Misidentified as Creditable: Veggie Straws

Veggie Straws, also known as Veggie Sticks or Veggie Tubes, are a processed snack product similar to other snack foods like potato chips and cheese puff balls. Veggie Straws do not credit toward the vegetable component or grain component of the CACFP meal pattern and cannot be served as part of a reimbursable meal. They do not credit as a vegetable because they lack standard of identity of a vegetable, do not physically resemble any vegetable, and do not include any visible vegetable. For additional information on foods that credit as a vegetable, refer to the [CACFP Creditable and Non-Creditable Foods Guide](#) or the [Vegetable and Fruit Requirements in CACFP Q&As](#).



Additionally, Veggie Straws do not credit as a grain because they do not meet the CACFP standards for creditable grains. For an item to credit toward the grain component of the meal pattern, the first ingredient must be a whole or enriched grain. The [USDA Crediting Grain in Child Nutrition Programs Tip Sheets](#) is a helpful resource for identifying creditable grains in the CACFP. Depending on the brand of Veggie Straws, the first ingredient is typically a type of non-creditable grain (such as potato starch, potato flour, corn flour, etc.).



Below are examples of non-creditable Veggie Straw products:

Ingredients:

Potato Starch, Potato Flour, Canola Oil And/Or Sunflower Oil And/Or Safflower Oil, Corn Starch, Cane Sugar, Salt, Potassium Chloride, Spinach Powder, Sea Salt, Tomato Paste, Beetroot Powder (Color), Turmeric Extract (Color).

Ingredients:

Organic Yellow Corn Flour (64%), Organic Tapioca Flour, Organic Sunflower Oil Or Organic Rapeseed Oil, Organic Carrot Powder (5%), Organic Sweetcorn Powder (2%), Organic Tomato Powder (0.5%), Organic Pumpkin Powder (0.5%), Organic Pea Powder (0.5%), Organic Parsley Powder, Organic Rosemary Extract.

- The first ingredient in each product is a non-creditable flour, not a whole or enriched grain. Therefore, these are non-creditable as a grain in the CACFP.

For additional guidance and clarification on specific products, reach out to your [assigned consultant](#).

Updated CACFP Resources From Team Nutrition

Team Nutrition updated the following training resources for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP):

- Serving Adult Participants in the CACFP:
 - [CACFP Halftime Webinar Recording](#)
 - [Training Worksheet](#)
 - [Sample Meals for Adults Poster](#)
- [Serve Tasty and Healthy Foods in the CACFP Sample Meals for Children 6-12 and 13-18](#)



Order Team Nutrition Materials in Print

Program operators, and sponsoring organizations that participate in USDA's Child Nutrition Programs can request free copies of [Team Nutrition materials](#), such as the resources below, while supplies last.

[Make Today a Try-Day! Poster and Sticker Set](#)

Team Nutrition Resource Catalog for CACFP and SFSP in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

Questions about this announcement may be sent to TeamNutrition@USDA.gov.



New Food Yields Available

New food yields were added to the [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs \(FBG\) Interactive Web-based Tool](#) and the [FBG Mobile App](#)! Program operators can use these Team Nutrition technical assistance resources to offer meals that meet the CACFP meal pattern requirements.

The following new foods are now available in the FBG: Crushed pineapple, pineapple chunks, pineapple tidbits, dried mangoes, açai puree, dragon fruit (pitaya), and chopped romaine lettuce. Stay tuned for additional yield data releases coming soon. Explore the [Food Buying Guide](#) today!



USDA: New Guidance

Listed below are recent policy memos issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a brief summary of each one.

[Resource: CNP Income Eligibility Guidelines](#)

This announcement announces USDA's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The annual adjustments are required by section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to direct benefits to those children most in need and are revised annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

The DPI updated all applicable resources, and they can be found under Guidance Memorandum 1.

[Using Federal Funds to Purchase Local Foods](#)

This USDA Policy Memo is a reminder that schools, sponsors and institutions participating in any USDA Child Nutrition Program (CNP), including CACFP, can purchase local foods to serve in program meals. Sourcing and serving locally grown foods, and other farm to school activities, such as taste testing, gardening, and agriculture education, can infuse new energy and vision into CNP operations, support community health, create new opportunities for American farmers, invest federal dollars in local economies, and strengthen strategies to encourage healthy choices.

[Final Rule – CACFP: Recission of Obsolete Data Collection Requirements](#)

This rule rescinds an obsolete data collection requirement in regulations regarding the Child and Adult Care Food Program. **The final rule is effective July 11, 2025.**

[Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025: Effect on Child Nutrition Programs](#)

This memorandum provides notice to child nutrition program operators regarding the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (PL 119-4) (the 2025 Appropriations Act), March 15, 2025. This applies to state agencies administering, and local organizations operating, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), child nutrition programs. This extends the 2024 provision that program funds may not be used to procure raw or processed poultry or seafood products from the People's Republic of China. **This prohibition applies to all child nutrition programs and remains effective through September 30, 2025.**

[Guidance on the Interpretation of Discrimination Based on "Sex" in USDA Child Nutrition Programs](#)

USDA has rescinded the May 2022 Bostock policy update that sought to require federally-funded food and nutrition service programs to redefine discrimination by reason of "sex" under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 as not based on just male or female, but also "gender identity."

The USDA is currently updating the nondiscrimination statement for USDA Child Nutrition Programs, and you may begin to see changes on their webpages. We have been in contact with the USDA and have been instructed not to revise the nondiscrimination statement on any program materials until we receive official written guidance from USDA with the updated statement. Once this guidance is provided, we will share it with community nutrition contacts. We are also keeping track of and updating links as necessary. The most up-to-date information can be found in Guidance Memorandum 8.

Farewell to Nutrition Program Consultant Emily Rox

Join the Bureau of Community Nutrition in bidding farewell to Emily Rox. Emily served as a Nutrition Program Consultant at WI DPI for 2.5 years and worked with both group childcare centers and family day care home sponsors participating in the CACFP. Emily was an integral part of the training group for the Bureau of Community Nutrition, and many of you may have crossed paths with her during the in-person trainings. We will miss her attention to detail and the care she had for the agencies participating in CACFP. She is already missed by her Community Nutrition family. We wish Emily the best as she takes on a new opportunity working at a school district!



BCN Personnel Directory

DPI Toll-Free Helpline.....1-800-441-4563

Amanda Cullen, RDN, CD, Director.....(608) 267-9123
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Summer Food Service Program.....(608) 266-7124
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Jacque Darrow, Accountant.....(608) 267-9134
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To find your agency's consultant, refer to the [Consultant Assignments document](#) on the [CACFP Consultant Assignments webpage](#).

About Us

CACFP Today is published three times per year by the Department of Public Instruction.



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mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax:
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email:
program.intake@usda.gov

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