

Colorado Communiqué



December 2008

Message from the Director

Greetings!

As we are now in the holiday season, I hope that the school year has progressed well.

Many changes have occurred in the Child Nutrition Unit in the past eighteen months. It is my pleasure to introduce the new staff of the Child Nutrition Unit. Lynn Warner was hired in February 2008 and has the financial/fiscal responsibilities; Connie Harlow joined us in September 2008 and has the primary responsibility for the Summer Food Service Program; and Lindsay Suchor and Ahn Ei Sweeney became members of the staff in October 2008. Lindsay will have primary responsibility of the Afterschool Care Snack Program, and Ahn Ei will have primary responsibility of the School Breakfast Program and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Needless to say, each person has been quite busy becoming familiar with the programs, especially Coordinated Review Effort (CRE). Welcome Everyone!

In September the USDA held listening sessions for the upcoming 2009 Child Nutrition Programs Reauthorization. The sessions were very successful as over 3,000 comments have been received. The USDA is in the process of reviewing over 13,000 comments that were received from email, portal, etc; the USDA is still sorting through those comments. The Child Nutrition Reauthorization moves forward in 2009.

A new federal program began this school year. The USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program grants were awarded to twenty five school districts. This is a competitive grant, and schools must apply for funding to participate in the program. Please see the article in this issue.

As we move into the New Year we look forward to continuing our work with the nutrition programs and assisting school districts.

Herminia Vigil

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Let's Move...Cold Weather Fun

Cold weather offers great ways to have family fun. Take time to play together—and move more. You'll all feel good! As an adult, you need to move for at least thirty minutes on most days. Your child needs at least sixty minutes of moving on most days.

For ideas on fun activities for the family go to:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/Nibbles/lets_cold.pdf

Always stay with your child for safety's sake. You also have the fun of playing together. Protect your child's skin with sunscreen, even in cold weather.





Colorado's Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Allocation

The 2008 Farm Bill amended the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by adding section 19, the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program. This program is targeted to students in the neediest elementary schools in each state. For 2008-2009, \$40 million was available from the Farm Bill, plus an additional \$8,889,165 from the Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 110-161), for a total of \$48,889,165. Colorado's share is \$872,875. Schools may apply for funding to operate this program on an annual basis.



The following school districts are participating in the Fruit & Vegetable program for the 2008-2009 school year:

Adams County 14	Ignacio 11-JT
Adams-Arapahoe 28J	Jefferson County R-1
Brighton 27J	Lamar RE-2
Canon City RE-1	Las Animas RE-1
Center 26 Jt	Mancos RE-6
Colorado Springs 11	Montezuma-Cortez RE-1
Cotopaxi RE-3	Pueblo City 60
Denver County 1	Roaring Fork RE-1
East Otero R-1	Walsh RE-1
Ellicott 22	Weld County 6
Fort Morgan RE-3	Yuma 1
Fountain 8	
Garfield RE-2	
Huerfano RE-1	

(Parts of this article were taken directly from USDA News Release No. 0208.08.)

Colorado's Fruit & Vegetable Program is administered by Ahn Ei Sweeney, CDE Nutrition Senior Consultant. For more information go to USDA News Release No. 0208.08 or <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriFFVPP.htm>

If It Walks Like a Duck...

If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck...you know the rest of the line. The duck we are referring to is soda water. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has determined all beverages labeled as "aerated" or that bubble and fizz for several minutes after opening are to be categorized as "soda water."

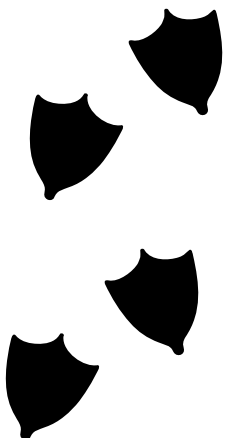
Perception is very important when making foods available to school-age children. FNS considers aerated beverages to be foods of minimal nutritional value, and they may not be served in the food service area during meal periods of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

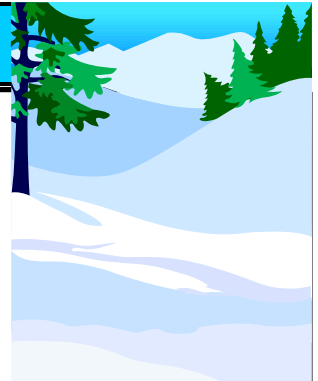
For more information please reference:

7CFR Part 210.11 and Appendix B

Colorado Department of Education memo CNO-G-015

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutitran/download/pdf/ExemptFoods.pdf>





Food Stamps are a SNAP

The federal Food Stamp program has a new name, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This change went into effect October 1st, a result of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L.110-246), commonly known as the Farm Bill. Today, participants access benefits with Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

cards, similar to debit cards—not stamps or coupons. Procedures and application requirements for these benefits will remain the same. States are not required to change their program name to SNAP. The program’s mission is to provide food assistance & nutrition education to assist participants as they move to a healthier lifestyle and

self-sufficiency. USDA’s fifteen nutrition assistance programs reach one in five Americans each year, are designed to increase access to a healthful diet, and work in concert to form a national safety net against hunger.

(Parts of this article were taken directly from USDA News Release No. 0241.08.)



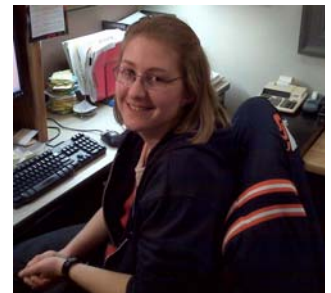
For more information on SNAP, visit www.fns.usda.gov/snap

Meet Jennifer!

Meet Jennifer, our valued Administrative Assistant in CDE’s Nutrition & Transportation office. Jennifer Otey (pronounced Otee) has worked at CDE for 2 years and is a native of Colorado, having been born in Englewood. She attended the University of Denver, majoring in English & minoring in history, and she graduated with a 4.0 grade average! Jennifer supports users in the Claim system, makes payments, and answers questions for dis-

tricts. She also assists the CDE staff with office needs and travel arrangements. When asked, “What do you like best about working for CDE?” she replied, “What I do touches all parts of the state. I get to talk to people from diverse areas, Human Geography if you will.” Jennifer is also a published author. She self-published the book, WORDS, PLACE OF WORSHIP in 2006 and is currently working on a travel essay she hopes to have completed in 2010.

Jennifer loves to travel and has been to every county in Colorado. Her favorite part of the state is the San Luis Valley. She has ventured to 48 states, every province in Canada, and England, Wales, & Scotland. Next year (2009) she plans on going to Hawaii. Jennifer has a tortoiseshell cat named Neishma (which is Hebrew for “to be heard”). Jennifer says “Neishma is in charge of the house, but I love her anyway!”

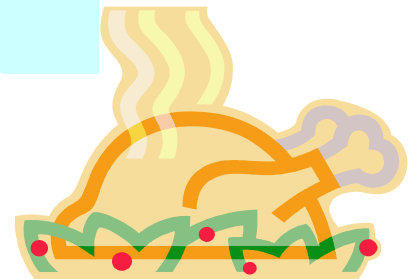


“I get to talk to people from diverse areas...”

Holiday Food and Nutrition Resource List

This publication is a collection of food and nutrition resources for holidays and celebrations. Topics include cooking holiday foods, planning holiday celebrations, food safety during the holidays, and healthy holiday eating. Resources include books and websites and are limited to those published in 2002 or later.

This resource list is available from the Food and Nutrition Information Center’s (FNIC) website at <http://www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/pubs/bibs/gen/holiday.pdf>.





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Steamboat Springs School District RE-2, in autumn splendor

We're on the web!
http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_nutrition.htm

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Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they do when they stick together.

- Verna M. Kelly

