

Dear Software Industry Executive:

I want to thank you for your participation in the October 7, 1999, meeting of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved software vendors and bring those of you who were unable to attend up to date on the issues discussed and the decisions made during the meeting. I was pleased everyone actively participated and hope this will become an annual meeting as several of you have suggested.

One of the items handed out at the meeting was the official announcement that the fourth release of the Child Nutrition (CN) database has been released and is available on the Healthy School Meal Resource System Web Page under the Industry Partners section. A copy of this letter is attached for those of you who could not attend.

A summary of the meeting is attached for everyone's review. If you believe something notable that was discussed has been left out please inform Bill Wagoner at (703) 305-2578 or by email at william.wagoner@fns.usda.gov. One of the items discussed was the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) view on how schools should handle standard items that are in the CN database. A copy of a memo to the FNS regional offices was given out at the meeting and is attached. It states the FNS viewpoint, however, keep in mind that States are free to impose requirements that go beyond the Federal requirements as long as they are not inconsistent.

Some other highlights of the meeting included the following:

1. USDA will not use the Child Nutrition Program (CNP) codes from 900,000 to 999,999. These will be reserved for local input.
2. All software programs shall be submitted for review to the National Agricultural Library whenever a major update/change in platform occurs or at least every three years.
3. The customizing of nutrient standards not specifically required by regulation is not a problem for FNS as long as required nutrient standard information is unaffected.
4. Setting of all day nutrient standards is not a problem with FNS as long as required nutrient standard information is unaffected.
5. Software vendors or users can create a customized user-database established upon a reduced number of food items selected from the CN database to meet user's inventory and specific menu planning needs. This can be accomplished by deactivating CN food items so that users may search through a smaller database during menu planning. The entire CN database must still be available to the user to accommodate menu additions. The user must know that items have been deactivated/removed and have the knowledge and ability to add the items back into their database.

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Please see the summary of the meeting for all items discussed. I ask that you keep the information flowing to Bill Wagoner, Marion Hinnners at (703)305-2575 or Eileen Ferruggiaro at (301) 504-5373 and they will do their best to resolve any problems in a timely manner.

Again thank you for your time, interest and the lively discussion.

Sincerely,

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division

Enclosures

cc: Eileen Ferruggiaro, NAL
Melissa Mckee, SPS
Patty Kraft, SPS
Bob Eadie, CND

USDA/FNS/SNP/CND/NPTB/TAS/WAGONER/305-2621

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