

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard (MDE)
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 3:37 PM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Howard's News from MDE 050814

Another Weekly News so soon!!?? Yep. Just trying to keep you all well informed. And since there is no set time frame for when they come out, I have changed the word "Weekly" in "Weekly News." Here we go:

- 1) Follow the Yellow Brick Road! - MDE's School Nutrition Programs unit is excited to present a week-long series of emails and social media communications about the Smart Snacks in Schools rule which will be implemented July 1, 2014! We hope you enjoy receiving the information and share it with those in your district that it impacts. A special prize will be awarded to those that share with others in their district - so keep track of your communications - both the "what" and the "who"! More details on how to report your communications to us will follow in the last email of this series. The series of emails start Monday, May 12. To view the social media communications, like Michigan Team Nutrition's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/michiganteamnutrition and follow Michigan Team Nutrition on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/TeamNutritionMI>.
- 2) June Conference - "Apples and Spinach and Regulations, Oh My!!" is just over a month away (June 10-12). Many people have signed up, we still need more but last year we sold out so don't let that happen to you. Here is the link to registration: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Registration_Memo_-_June_10-12_2014_455856_7.pdf?20140509150800. Come on, use your brain, have a heart, and the courage to learn more about school nutrition. There's no place like Lansing! Don't make us send out the flying monkeys!!
- 3) Application for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant - We are having some technical difficulties. We are expecting it to be ready early next week. Will let you know when it is live. Otherwise.....The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service has selected Michigan to receive National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$638,408 for School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the NSLP. These funds will make a significant investment in fulfilling the unmet need by allowing SFAs to purchase the equipment needed to serve healthier meals, meet the new nutritional standards with emphasis on more fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals, improve food safety, and expand access. For more information, visit the following link: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Lunch_Grant_455703_7.pdf.
- 4) Whole Grains - On May 6, 2014, USDA, Food and Nutrition Service announced the availability of a new Webinar recording "Whole Grain Resource for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs" (<http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/hsmrs/wholegrainresourcewebinar/story.html>) that highlights the whole grain requirements of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) and provides a

detailed overview of the Whole Grains Resource. It includes tips for using the resource, supporting resources, and the questions and answers that were covered during the webinar. To access the Whole Grain Resource for the NSLP and SBPs, please visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/whole-grain-resource>. For more information about whole grain requirements and the nutrition standards for NSLP and SBP, please visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/nutrition-standards-school-meals>.

- 5) May is Michigan Asparagus Month – May is the perfect time to serve asparagus within school meals! Asparagus is a nutrient-dense food that is a good source of potassium, dietary fiber, folate, and other vitamins! Additionally, it has no fat, dietary cholesterol, and is naturally low in sodium which makes this vegetable a perfect choice for your school meal program.

Michigan currently ranks third in the nation for the production of asparagus, so choosing a local source is a great way to eat healthier while also supporting Michigan's agricultural economy. A directory of farmers markets can be found at www.MichiganFarmFun.com. For more asparagus resources, tips, and recipes, please see the guide at http://www.cultivatemichigan.org/sites/default/files/u27/optimized_Asparagus_product%20guide.pdf.

So get ready for Michigan Asparagus Month and start eating your green veggies this May!

- 6) Team Nutrition Update - New Smarter Lunchroom videos featuring food service directors from around the state available at the Michigan Team Nutrition YouTube page! <https://www.youtube.com/user/miteamnutrition1/videos>.

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