Third Wednesday Webinar – January 17
Join us for a webinar that will discuss Frequent Food Safety Violations on January 17, 2018 at 2:00 PM. This is the last of the regularly scheduled monthly Third Wednesday Webinars. Join the webinar at https://ksde.zoom.us/j/134705959. Audio for the webinar can be heard either through your computer speakers (if your computer has a microphone) or by calling 1-866-620-7326 and entering the conference code 7852962276# when prompted.

Food Service Management Company Training
An important training session for Sponsors considering contracting with a Food Service Management Company for SY 2018-19 will be held on January 10 from 10:00 am-11:30 am in Topeka at the Landon State Office Building in Room 254. Webinars will also be held on January 26 at 10:00 am and February 15 at 1:30 pm. The same content will be presented on both days. Please RSVP to Kelly Chanay at kchanay@ksde.org to participate in any of these training sessions.

Annual On-site Accountability Reviews
The School Food Service On-Site Accountability Review (Form 9-G) can be accessed online at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Food Service Facts, Chapter 9. By February 1, Sponsors with more than one site must review each site approved to participate in the National School Lunch Program at least once per year and review 50% of all sites approved to participate in the School Breakfast Program once per year. Someone not involved in the daily meal accountability procedures at the site must conduct the On-Site Accountability Review. Keep completed reviews on file with school food service program documents for review or audit. Each on-site review must ensure the school’s claim is based on the counting system, as reported on the site application, and yields the actual number of reimbursable free, reduced price, and paid lunches, respectively, served for each day of operation. If the review discloses problems, the Sponsor must ensure that the school implements corrective action, and within 45 days of the review conduct a follow-up on-site review to determine that the corrective action resolved the problems.

School Wellness: ACTION!
Child Nutrition & Wellness will be hosting six interactive regional workshops focused on taking action to implement modeling level wellness policies. Participants will get a behind-the-scenes look at how wellness is incorporated into accreditation, get a close-up look at promoting wellness within the school and community, and enjoy a sneak preview of information from several community partners. In addition, students in attendance will participate in special, student-focused, breakout sessions. Workshop dates and locations are:
- February 2, 2018 – Topeka
- February 7, 2018 – Garden City
- February 8, 2018 – Oakley
- February 13, 2018 – Salina
- February 15, 2018 – Girard
- March 1, 2018 – Clearwater

These free workshops will be conducted from 9 am to 2:30 pm with lunch provided. A $300 stipend will be provided by the Kansas Health Foundation for sponsors who have 2 or more representatives attend. The stipend can be used to offset travel costs and substitute pay. The registration form is available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New. An online registration is also available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F65RCMG. Contact Emily Brinkman at ebrinkman@ksde.org or 785-296-2276 with any questions about the workshop.
Recommended Minimum Adult Meal Prices for SY 2018-19
The prices charged for adult meals should at least equal the current free rate of reimbursement for the meal. Sponsors will be advised by email when reimbursement rates for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 are posted on our website. Rates are normally not available from USDA until early July. Some school districts have requested estimated reimbursement rates (KSDE bases these estimates upon the average percent increase over the last three years) and recommended minimum adult meal prices for SY 2017-18 so that they can set adult meal prices for the next school year. Recommended minimum adult meal prices for SY 2018-19 are: Breakfast $1.80, Severe Need Breakfast $2.15 and Lunch $3.65.

Claim Deadline Reminder
Claims are due 60 days after the end of the claim month. Please be aware that 60 days does not always correlate with the last day of the month.

Increase Participation with the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
If your district has a high percentage of students who are directly certified to receive free meals, you might consider CEP for the upcoming school year. Schools or districts that elect CEP offer all students breakfast and lunch at no charge and receive a set reimbursement percentage. Kansas schools that have implemented CEP this year have seen increases in breakfast and lunch participation. This is a great way to ensure access to healthy meals for Kansas kids! For more information, or to find out if CEP would be a good choice for your school, please contact Julie in the Topeka office at 785-296-2276.

USDA Issues Interim Final Rule on School Meal Flexibility
On November 29, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released an interim final rule to extend current regulatory flexibility for school meal programs through School Year (SY) 2018-19. The interim rule maintains Target 1 sodium limits for school meals. USDA “anticipates” extending this deadline through SY 2020-21. State agencies can continue to offer waivers to schools demonstrating hardship in procuring or preparing specific whole-grain rich foods that are acceptable to students (eg whole grain tortillas or brown rice). Finally, the rule provides schools the option to offer flavored 1% milk. The interim final rule will become effective July 1, 2018.

USDA requests public comment on the interim rule and the sodium reduction timeline to inform the development of a final rule, effective in SY 2019-20. To submit feedback, use the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov. The comment deadline is January 29, 2018.

Child Nutrition Food Crediting
The USDA has issued a public invitation for comments on food crediting. They are especially interested in understanding the possible benefits and negative impacts associated with potential changes to how certain foods may or may not be credited. Submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov. The comment deadline is February 12, 2018.

Kansas School Lunch Week – January 22-26
SNA-KS celebrates Kansas School Lunch Week each year, promoting Kansas and local foods. SNA-KS and KSDE support a joint effort to promote Agriculture products from Kansas. Visit the SNA-KS website, www.sna-ks.org, or the KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness website, www.kn-eat.org, for Farm to School menu suggestions along with supporting recipes. Teachers can find “Ag in the Classroom Nutrition Education Lesson Plans” to support the cafeteria celebrations during Kansas School Lunch Week. Kansas has a rich agricultural history and a promising future, and school nutrition programs are encouraged to celebrate this heritage each January during Kansas School Lunch Week!
A Summer Mind-Set
2017 is wrapping up and it is time to start thinking ahead and making plans for the 2018 Summer Food Service Program. Join CNW for the 2018 Summer Food Service Program Team Up for Success on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 in Topeka at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library. The workshop will provide customized technical assistance and sessions highlighting best practices. Team Up participants will develop personalized goals, strategies, and an action plan focusing on the areas of effective financial management and outreach strategies to increase participation to assist with the administration of the Summer Food Service Program. To attend, please RSVP to Sarah Bruschi by February 5 at sbruschi@ksde.org or 785-296-2276. Details will be provided via email after registration.

Stay tuned for information about the 2018 Summer Food Service Program Kick-Off webinar in early March and the Summer Food Service Program Best Practices webinar in early April. The Summer Food Service program is NOT just a school nutrition program; it is a COMMUNITY Nutrition Program and we are looking forward to working with Sponsors and partners to increase access to healthy meals during the summer for Kansas Kids. NOW is a great time to begin making plans for summer 2018 and the Child Nutrition & Wellness team is here to help!

Summer Food Service Program Outreach
All Sponsors are required to conduct outreach for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). If the Sponsor does not have the SFSP in their school, consider sending the link to the site locator tool that is available on-line at www.kn-eat.org, Summer Food Service Program, Locate a Site Near You, home with students or post the link on the school website. This would allow families to find a location to receive free meals as needed.

New! USDA Summer Meals Text Number
USDA is kicking off a new text number for Summer 2018! Households can text “Summer Meals” to 97779 to find Summer meal sites once the site finder is ready for this summer.

Webinar – Recruiting and Retaining Summer Meal Program Sites
This webinar is hosted by the Food Research and Action Center on January 4, 2018 at 12:00 noon. Retaining experienced sponsors and sites is an important strategy for maintaining community Summer Nutrition Programs year after year. State agencies and advocates can work with community partners to recruit and strengthen the number of sites serving summer meals and give them the support they need to stay involved. Learn about best practices, training and communication strategies to increase the number of sites and sponsors engaged and participating, as well as strategies to support and mentor new ones. To register, go to http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=87148.

HACCP Reminder
Remember to complete the Food Safety Checklist each month for each site and keep a copy of the monthly review on file as part of your HACCP documentation. A copy of the checklist can be found at www.kn-eat.org, Food Safety, HACCP Guidance & Resources, HACCP Resources.

Food Safety Basics
A schedule with Spring Food Safety Basics classes for February, March and April at locations across Kansas will be available in early January at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Training. Food Safety Basics is also available 24/7 on the KSDE Training Portal, https://learning.ksde.org/moodle/login/index.php. Food safety training is required within 6 months of hire and every 5 years. Be sure to update the Food Safety Training Record in KN-CLAIM when employees complete an approved food safety class.
Jump Start for Directors
A two-day training opportunity for new directors will be held in Manhattan at the KSU Alumni Center on February 26 and 27, 2018. For more information, call 785-296-2276. Registration information is available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Training.

Baking Boot Camp – Quantity Baking Classes
Save the Dates for Spring Break Baking Boot Camp! This two-day hands-on baking experience will cover techniques for producing healthy quick breads and healthy yeast breads in quantity. Attend one or both days in either Garden City on March 13-14, 2018 or Topeka on March 20-21, 2018. Registration information will be available soon.

Child Nutrition Management Academy (CNMA) 2018
Planning is underway for CNMA 2018. Classes will be held at two locations each during the weeks of July 16-20 and July 23-27. This professional development program is designed specifically for directors, managers and supervisors of Child Nutrition Programs. Culinary classes taught by chefs will continue in 2018! We will also offer a track of Professional Development classes concurrent with CNMA for all Child Nutrition Program staff to attend. Save the dates and make it a staff training event!

KSDE Training Portal: Online Professional Development Classes & Quick Train Tutorials
CNW staff are developing interactive online training classes and quick train tutorials that can be accessed free of charge 24/7 via the KSDE Training Portal. The professional development classes offer a certificate upon successful completion which can be printed. Quick train tutorials are 5 minutes or less with no quiz and no certificate. Create an account now at https://learning.ksde.org/moodle/login/index.php. For detailed instructions on creating an account and accessing the training, go to www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New, KSDE Training Portal - How to Create a New User Account.

KSDE Data Central
KSDE Data Central is a one-stop shop for all publicly accessible data. The public and policy makers in Kansas can now go to a single source for KSDE public data including Child Nutrition & Wellness reports, for example Administrative Review results, Administrative Review Commendations and Wellness Policies. Data Central can be reached by going directly to http://datacentral.ksde.org/ or from www.ksde.org, click on the Data Central tab.

2017 Food Service Equipment Assistance Grants
Grant funds have been awarded to 10 sponsors for 33 pieces of equipment through a competitive application process over the past year. See the list of awardees at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New.

9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference – Scholarships are Available
The National Farm to School Network is now accepting applications for scholarships to the 9th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference, which will take place in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 25-27, 2018. This event is the top national training and networking event for farm to cafeteria professionals working to improve community health, build economic opportunities for farmers and producers, and ensure long-term sustainability for local food efforts nationwide. To ensure the conference reflects the full diversity of the movement, scholarships are prioritized for farmers and farm support organizations, farm to college / hospital practitioners, early care and education providers, food service professionals, persons of color, and youth (through age 22). The deadline to apply is Monday, February 12, 2018 at 7 pm. Learn more and apply here.
Funding for Healthier School Environments
The America's Promise Healthy Schools Fund will support communities working to create healthier school environments for all children. Recognizing that school-centered health intersects with many areas outside of education—housing, employment, transportation, and food access—as well as many audiences, efforts should serve as a hub for cross-sector collaboration, youth and community engagement, and broader policy and systemic change. America’s Promise will award three to five grants of up to $150,000 each per year for two years (for a total of up to $300,000) to collaborative efforts that display alignment with this vision and a proven ability to accelerate positive change for young people in schools and their communities. To learn more and apply, go to: http://www.americaspromise.org/healthy-schools-fund.

Student Waste Audits
The USDA in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the University of Arkansas, released Guide to Conducting Student Food Waste Audits: A Resource for Schools. This guide will help schools audit their food waste and implement practical steps to reduce food waste by students. Learn how to plan your audit, collect data, and discover new prevention ideas. Check out #9, implementing a Farm to School Program helps reduce food waste!

Resources for Food Tasting from Team Nutrition
The start of a new year is a great time to help students discover favorite new foods. Team Nutrition has resources and ideas to make the journey of exploring new fruits and vegetables fun! Host a Welcome Winter! Celebration from the Discover MyPlate for Kindergarten: Teacher’s Guide. Prepare a Fruit-a-licious Breakfast Cup or warm up with an oatmeal recipe. Display the theme of trying new foods with Team Nutrition Elementary School Posters. Hosting a Food Explorer Scavenger Hunt is a fun and memorable way to help kids learn to build their own healthy snacks and meals! Find more event ideas and highlights of school events in the Team Nutrition Popular Events Idea Booklet. Use Dig In posters to visually express the world of possibilities found in growing and eating fruits and vegetables. Printed Team Nutrition materials are available, as supplies last, to sponsors that participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program and other USDA Child Nutrition Programs via an online order form. All others are welcome to download, print, and distribute materials from our website. To inquire about bulk orders, please send an email to teamnutrition@fns.usda.gov.

Child Nutrition & Wellness KANSANS CAN 2017-18 Best Practice Awards
The vision of the Kansas State Board of Education is: Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. This vision for education calls for a more child focused system that provides support and resources for individual success and will require everyone to work together to make it a reality. The academic achievement and physical well-being of our students in Kansas today will impact the success of our communities, our state and the nation in the future. The good health that results from good nutrition and physical activity, and the learning that is made possible as a result, is primary among those tools.

The purpose of the best practice awards program is to encourage and reward outstanding practices in Child Nutrition & Wellness Programs in Kansas that support the Kansans Can vision. There are many outstanding child nutrition programs in Kansas. We encourage you and your staff to make nominations for outstanding and/or innovative practices for recognition of your efforts. A nomination entry form is available at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, What’s New. Nominations are due to the Child Nutrition & Wellness office on or before June 30, 2018. Winners will be notified by July 31 and presentations will be made at the August State Board of Education meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Child Nutrition & Wellness team at (785) 296-2276 if we can be of assistance with this process. We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating the Kansans CAN Best Practice Awards with you at the August 2018 State Board of Education Meeting.
2017 Reflections
Your commitment and dedication to providing Kansas students access to safe and healthy meals is sincerely appreciated! Day in and day out, all year long, members of the child nutrition community are giving their heart, sharing their passion, and creating healthy futures. The Child Nutrition team wants to acknowledge you and thank you. Kansans CAN and each of you DO play an important role in student achievement and healthier outcomes! The Child Nutrition & Wellness team looks forward to working with you in 2018.

The entire Child Nutrition & Wellness team sends best wishes for an amazing, safe and healthy 2018! Happy New Year!

Cheryl, Kelly & Mark