

Greetings from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Division of Food Distribution!

As some of you know, there have been some recent changes within our division. Our Director, Teresa Ulery, and Assistant Director, Bill Wilson, both retired on July 31, 2008. Brandy May and Angela Pennington, our office support staff both transferred to positions in the new fuel lab. Bill Day, who was our division accountant, also transferred to the fuel lab. Dan Flaherty with his experience as a C.P.A., was promoted into Bill's former position and Roger Estill was hired to replace Dan. James Walden has been on sick leave from his field staff position since November 2006, and still remains so. In early August, Larry Garriot, our northern Kentucky field staffer, was injured and will be on sick leave the remainder of 2008. Roger Estill has been doing the brown box orders along with some field work and it appears that he will be doing more field work since we are so understaffed. If he shows up in your system, please make him feel welcome! Kevin Peach will be handling the brown box commodities for the schools as well as CSFP and TFAP. For the time being, please direct all questions about brown box commodities and ECOS issues to him at kevin.peach@ky.gov or 502-573-0424

Sure, we are short staffed, but we are working together and taking care of business as usual. It may take a little more time but we will take care of any questions or problems, just as we always have! Field staff will be getting around to each new FSD soon.

With all that is going on, you can help us by handling things that you are able to do but if you have a question that you cannot find the answer to in ECOS, please call us.

Commodity Prices Rise

Commodity prices, just like the prices in the retail markets, are up this year. Your entitlement dollars probably won't go as far as you planned but, please remember that the price given when requesting in ECOS is simply an estimated price. This price is always taken from the last price paid for the same item the previous year (Nov 15) and is also the price that processors use to repay you for damaged or lost product. The price that you pay will be determined once the purchase is made by USDA, since you are charged actual cost. The USDA Commodity program is no different than the retail market in the fact that, when market prices rise and fuel surcharges are added, the same happens with your commodities. In today's turbulent times, your commodities are more valuable than ever! Please use them wisely and we all win!

Current SDA Contacts

National School lunch Program, Branch Manager, Steve Castanis 502-573-0433

Brown Box Commodities/ Ordering /Allocation and ECOS Concerns, Kevin Peach 502-573-0424

Processing Specialist, Ann Smith 502-573-0439

For field staff assistance, call your representative, but if you have trouble reaching them or aren't sure which one to call, Steve Castanis can be reached and is the Branch Manager over field staff issues.