

Nutrition News

Summer Food Service Program



September 2019 • Edition XLVIII

Preparing for Hurricane Dorian *Updated guidance on Disaster Preparedness*

As of Friday, August 30, the National Hurricane Center expects Hurricane Dorian to intensify and remain extremely dangerous, while it moves near the northwestern Bahamas and approaches the Florida peninsula this weekend.

Ahead of any potential impacts to Georgia, **Governor Brian Kemp** has declared a state of emergency for several counties including Brantley, Bryan, Camden, Charlton, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Pierce and Wayne.



In anticipation of this hazardous weather, DECAL is providing updated guidance on Disaster Preparedness applicable to organizations participating in both CACFP and SFSP.

Here you can find:

- **Flexibility approvals for continuing or restoring meal service for children and adults**
- **Action Steps to request flexibility or waiver**
- **CACFP menu planning template**
- **SFSP menu planning template**
- **Food Safety Guidance**

DECAL's disaster policy memorandum can be found on our website and accessed [here](#).

Be Prepared for a Hurricane

Hurricanes don't only affect people living along the coast. They can still cause damage even if you live hundreds of miles from the shore.

Make sure you are prepared for a Hurricane with these essential tips from [Ready.gov](#)



USDA offers Food Safety Tips Before and After A Disaster

Severe weather events can mean power outages, floods, and other problems that can affect the safety of food. Knowing what to do before and after a weather event can help you reduce your risk of illness.

Especially in storm-prone areas, power outages can be a common problem. Power outages can occur at any time of the year and it may take from a few hours to several days for electricity to be restored to residential areas. Without electricity or a cold source, food stored in refrigerators and freezers can become unsafe. Bacteria in food grow rapidly at temperatures between 40 and 140 °F, and if these foods are consumed, people can become very sick.

By following these guidelines, you can minimize the amount of food that may be lost due to spoilage.

- [Steps to follow to prepare for a possible weather emergency](#)
- [Steps to follow after the weather emergency](#)
- [If Flooding Occurs](#)
- [To Remove Odors from Refrigerators and Freezers](#)

Give us your Feedback!

SFSP Survey coming to your inbox next week

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Nutrition Services Division appreciates your participation in the 2019 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). To better understand your experience as a SFSP sponsor, we are compiling an end-of-summer survey. Your collected responses will be submitted anonymously, and we will use the information to ensure we are providing you the resources needed to actively and efficiently participate in the SFSP.

Keep an eye out for the survey in your inbox. We will send out the end-of-summer survey next week. Again, thank you for your commitment to serving children free and healthy meals during the summer months!

Farm Bill Implementation Memo: *Amended Farm Bill Eliminates Civil Liability for facilitating donated traditional foods*

This update notifies participating Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) institutions and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors of the 2018 Farm Bill's expansion of the provision which states that certain groups are not liable in civil cases regarding the donation and service of traditional foods. This provision only applies to food service programs at public and nonprofit facilities that primarily serve Indians, including those operated by Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations.

Previously, only the United States and Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations were protected from liability, and the protection was limited to the donation and serving of traditional foods. This provision, included in Section 4033 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, was effective in February 2014.

Section 4203 of the 2018 Farm Bill amends the prior authority and eliminates civil liability for States, counties or county equivalents, local educational agencies, and entities or persons authorized to facilitate the donation, storage, preparation, or serving of traditional foods by the operator of a food service program. These

organizations and persons are **not liable** in any civil action for any damage, injury, or death caused to any person by the storage, preparation, donation, or serving of traditional foods through food service programs, including the Child Nutritional Programs (CNPs).

For additional information relative to this update, please see DECAL Policy Memorandum, *Farm Bill Implementation Memo: Donated Traditional Foods and Civil Liability, August 22, 2019*, available on DECAL's [website](#).

For questions concerning these updates, please contact [Kate Alexander](#), Nutrition Services' Policy Administrator, at **(404) 651-8193**.

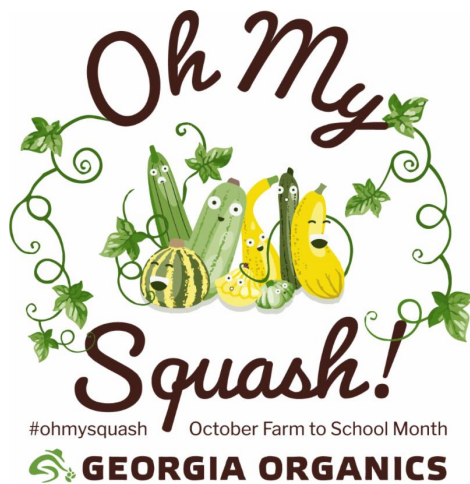
SFSP Annual Year End Reconciliation

Forms Due September 16

In accordance with policy memo dated January 25, 2019 titled "Simplified SFSP and Bright from the Start's Annual Year End Reconciliation Process", all SFSP organizations are required to complete and submit the [Summer Food Service Program Annual Year End Reconciliation Form](#). The policy memo and form instructions can be found on DECAL's [website](#).

Please submit completed reconciliation forms via email to Shonda.Franklin@decalfga.gov or fax to **770-342-3160** by **September 16**.

Nutrition ED Nook



October is Farm to School Month and DECAL is excited to partner with Georgia Organics to celebrate all things squash! *Oh My Squash!* is a state-wide celebration to get kids eating, growing, and participating in squash-themed activities. To participate in *Oh My Squash* at your school, early care center, or in your community, click [here](#) to sign up.

Participants will receive free electronic resources to help you plan and implement your activities. Resources include standards-based lesson plans, quick activities, recipes, videos, school garden planting and harvesting information, and more!

The first 300 people to sign-up will be mailed a free packet of squash seeds, washable squash tattoos, and a Georgia Planting and Harvest Calendar for school gardens. Share your *Oh My Squash* pictures and activities on social media with #OhMySquash. Each week during October, anyone who uses this hashtag will be entered to win a gift card and at the end of the month, we will have a grand prize winner of a two day education pass to the Georgia Organics Conference on Feb. 7-8, 2020 in Athens (a \$425 value)!

Have you listened to DECAL Download?



DECAL's vision is that every child in Georgia will have access to high quality early care and education regardless of family income or location. In this week's episode of DECAL Download, we talk with Mindy Binderman, Executive Director of GEEARS (Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students). Listen to learn more about this organization and community partner.

DECAL Download

New Episodes Every Wednesday!

Listen on Apple Podcasts  and  Spotify

You can find DECAL Download [here](#) or on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, Overcast, and more!



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Nutrition Division Marketing & Outreach Team

**Cindy Kicklighter
Gabrielle Phillips
Giovanna Lucas**

FOLLOW US

