

Did you notice our new logos?

We introduced the new red and black WECA agency logo in the September/October issue of the *Provider Connection*.

And in our last issue, you saw our very own WECA Food Program logo! We hope the bright colors remind you of healthy fruits and veggies!

Watch for one or both of these logos in future food program communications.

Child re-enrollment packets

Each year, we are required to collect updated information for all enrolled children. Many of you do an outstanding job to be sure that the information in your child re-enrollment packet is complete, accurate, and returned on time.

Always read packet instructions carefully:

- **Each parent/guardian MUST sign and date their child's form(s) during the month of September.**
- **The bottom section of each form MUST include the parent/guardian's name (signed and printed), current mailing address, and telephone number, including area code.**



It's tax time – get your food program earnings record

1. After the October claim (paid in December) is processed, log in at CACFP.Net.
 - Select My CACFP Info from the blue menu bar, and click on Checks Received.
 - Enter this year's Start Date (1/1/2011) and End Date (12/31/2011) and click on Display.
 - To print or to save to a file, select File in the upper left corner of your browser page.
2. **OR**, to have your record mailed, wait until the October claim (paid in December) is processed:
 - Call 800-783-9322, ext. 8051, and follow the recorded instructions. Your statement will be sent to the mailing address we have on file for you.

Tax info and other resources just for you

Resources for Child Caring (formerly Redleaf National Institute) at resourcesforchildcaring.org offers resources just for family child care providers.

For tax tips, click on For Child Care Providers, The Business of Child Care, Record Keeping and Taxes.



Apply for income eligibility anytime

Whenever your financial or household circumstances change, you may apply for income eligibility. If approved, you will receive the higher rates of reimbursement, and you may be eligible to claim the children in your household.

[Forms](#) are available on the WECA website under Food Program, or call 800-783-9322, ext. 7237, to request forms.

The earliest possible effective date for any tier form is the first day of the month in which it is approved.

Federal rules do not allow adjustments for late or missing paperwork.

Hot chocolate must be made with milk

Only hot chocolate made with fluid milk can be credited toward the food program milk requirement. Record it as milk on your menus.

See page 34 in your 12/06 food program manual if you have questions.

How to use a Claim Information Form (CIF)

If you are a paper claimer, only use a CIF when you need to tell the food program office something. Just use one of the categories on the form. It's easy!

Print more CIFs from the WECA website, under [Food Program](#). OR call ext. 8051 each month and request that a CIF, your claim summary, and the *Provider Connection* be mailed to you.

All providers, not just online claimers, may also use the [online forms](#) on the WECA website located under Food Program.

What's on that pizza?

Remember that pepperoni is NOT CREDITABLE on the food program. As a meat, choose a different, [cookbookcode01] creditable pizza topping instead, such as pork sausage or Canadian bacon.

Other meats that are not reimbursable on the food program include meat sticks and summer sausage. Replace these with creditable foods, also.



Our first cookbook winner!

The winner of the first cookbook drawing is Bonnie Pfeifer of Walworth County. Bonnie has been a WECA provider since December, 1994. Congratulations, Bonnie!

To enter the drawing, find the cookbook code hidden in this issue's online version and click on [the link](#). Complete the online form and Send.

Use nut "butters," not "spreads"

Foods such as Nutella spread are not creditable on the food program. An item that is labeled "spread" is not creditable, including peanut butter spread.

Read product labels carefully to be sure you're serving a nut butter, not a spread.

Commercial combination foods

A commercial combination food is a purchased product that combines two or more menu components in one food item. Some examples are pizza, lasagna, and corn dogs.

- The product must meet food program requirements, and must match the product code on the approved products list. (See pp. 46-51 of your 8/09 Provider Manual.)
- You must serve enough of the product to meet the meal pattern requirement for each child.
- Keep the Child Nutrition (CN) label for these products. Your area coordinator can ask to see CN labels at home visits.
- If you serve a commercial product that isn't on the approved products list, call the 800 number on the product package and request a product analysis sheet. It will specify how much meat/meat alternate, bread/grain, or fruit/vegetable component is in a serving. Keep this information on file in your binder.

Many commercial combination foods are expensive and contain extra fat, sugar, and salt that aren't healthy. Try to limit these items and serve homemade items as often as possible.

Do more online:

Find the cookbook code and [enter the drawing](#). [Click here](#) for a handout on whole grains (based on a Wisconsin DPI PowerPoint presentation).

Who's celebrating their January/February food program anniversaries? [Click here](#) to find out.

☺ Ha ha ha! That's just punny!

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other hat: "You stay here; I'll go on a head."

Thanks, Heidi!

When will you receive reimbursement?

Claims received by the fifth of the month after the claim month are paid early in the following month. Reimbursements are generally released prior to the tenth of each month, or when WECA receives the funds.

Late claims are paid one month later.

To hear the specific date, call 800-783-9322, ext. 4001. Information is updated as soon as we know.

Remember: With direct deposit, we email your deposit date and other important information. Be sure we have your current email address.



Half of our grains should be whole grains

The new [USDA MyPlate](#) guidelines recommend that half the grains we eat each day are whole grains. Read ingredient labels carefully and choose foods that list a whole grain first in the list of ingredients.

Just a few examples are: Brown rice, buckwheat, whole-grain corn, oatmeal, quinoa (pronounced keen-WAH), whole-grain barley, whole rye.

- Substitute a whole-grain product for a refined product, such as whole-wheat bread for white bread. Use whole-grain bread or cracker crumbs in meat loaf.
- Use rolled oats or crushed, unsweetened whole-grain cereal as the breading for baked fish, chicken, veal, or eggplant parmesan.
- Use whole-grain flour or oatmeal when baking cookies.
- Serve 100% whole-grain snack crackers.
- Foods labeled "multi-grain," "stone-ground," "100% wheat," "seven-grain," or "bran" are not usually whole-grain products.
- Set a good example for children by eating whole grains with meals or snacks.
- Let kids select and help prepare a whole-grain side dish.
- Color is not an indication of a whole grain. Bread might be brown because of molasses or other added ingredients.
- Keep parents informed. [Click here](#) for a parent handout about whole grains.

Credit: [USDA, MyPlate.gov, Food Groups, Grains](#).