



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

February 2, 2009

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

Dear State Agency Director:

3101 Park  
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

I strongly encourage you to attend this year's American Commodity Distribution Association's National Conference being held May 2-5, 2009, in Costa Mesa, California. This conference is the primary forum for discussing national issues affecting the commodity nutrition programs. The conference provides an important opportunity for States to share best practices. Attendees will acquire knowledge and skills from interaction with the Department of Agriculture (USDA), industry, and associations that will help them do their jobs more effectively.

The conference also gives USDA an opportunity to provide updates and receive feedback on initiatives with national implications for the commodity nutrition programs. Items USDA will discuss include the transition under way to a national Web Based Supply Chain Management System, hold and recall initiatives, legislative changes, disaster feeding issues, commodity processing, getting the most out of your commodity dollar, potential future offerings, and trends and best practices in The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

I cannot stress enough the importance of attending this conference. It is the only national conference that comprehensively addresses the wide range of program issues of direct interest to State distributing agencies. I hope that you will give serious consideration to attending. I am sure you will find the sessions and dialogue invaluable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathie McCullough". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathie McCullough  
Director  
Food Distribution Division