To: Business Administrators, Charter School Leads, Non-Public School Administrators
   Food Service Directors, Food Service Management Companies

From: Rose Tricario, Director
      Division of Food and Nutrition, NJ Department of Agriculture

Date: December 8, 2015

Subject: Fourth Annual USDA Foods Conference
        January 21, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick

I would like to encourage all Foodservice Directors, Business Administrators and appropriate
supporting staff to attend the Fourth Annual USDA Foods Conference at the Hyatt Regency in New
Brunswick on January 21, 2016.

We will be providing training on topics including procurement practices, commodity selection
process, vended meal contracts, and more. New and improved products will be available for
sampling at the Food Show to assist with making the best choices for your schools. In addition, you
will have the opportunity to sign up for participation in the DOD direct delivery produce program
for the 2016-2017 school year.

For many years the only way to receive fresh produce utilizing your USDA entitlement funds was to
pick up the produce on a monthly basis from the state contracted warehouse. This option has
limited the type and amounts of fresh produce that can be received due to the perishability of the
produce.

Over 150 school districts participated in the DOD direct delivery produce program during the 2015-
2016 school year. The New Jersey Department of Agriculture is offering the opportunity for
additional school districts to participate in the program for the 2016-2017 school year. Each school
district will decide the amount of entitlement funds to set aside for DOD produce to be delivered
directly to one site in the school district on a weekly basis. This option allows for a larger quantity
and variety of produce to be received by the school district and offers the flexibility to obtain more
locally grown products.

** In order to apply to participate in the program, the Submitter, Certifier or Foodservice
   Director from the school district must attend the Fourth Annual USDA Foods Conference.

Please see the attached registration packet for all of the details. We look forward to seeing you on
January 21, 2016.