



Wednesday October 10, 2007 NETCO hosted a school food show at the Freedom Hall Civic Center in Johnson City Tennessee. The event was attended by over 500 school children ranging in ages from grade 4 thru high school. The students sampled school food from 64 vendors showing over 250 different products. The vendors used this opportunity to showcase the new and improved formulations and ingredients in their school food offerings.

Food ranged from new formulations of school pizza to include a vegetarian Southwest flavor pizza and a Sicilian roasted chicken pizza with whole grain crusts. Students sampled such variations as vegetarian garden burgers, baked sweet potato french fries, whole grain poptarts, muffins, pancakes, cookie and pizza crusts. Other entrée offerings were BBQ pork processed with USDA pork, meatballs and beef steak strip for Philly sandwiches utilizing USDA ground beef, and a wide variety of other products that utilized USDA commodity products available to school systems.

Items for a la carte sales ranged from fruit smoothies, to whole grain cookies, to several beverages in an 8 ounce serving size to meet the Tennessee K-8 guidelines, to low fat ice creams to yogurts.

Students were given a complete list of products and asked to rate the products as acceptable or unacceptable and all evaluations were tabulated as a NETCO cooperative and as individual school systems. The results of these evaluations will be utilized in planning for future co-op and individual system purchases.

The NETCO cooperative is comprised of twelve individual school systems serving an average of 50,000 students per day with an annual food budget of over six million dollars. NETCO, formed in 1997, includes the school systems of Bristol City, Carter County, Cocke County, Greene County, Greeneville City, Hamblen County, Hawkins County, Johnson City, Johnson County, Newport City, Rogersville City, and Sullivan County. Our website may be accessed at: <http://www.netco-tn-snp.org/index.htm>.

