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For Immediate Release

HSD Secretary Pamela Hyde Announces a First in the Farm to School Program—Green Chile for Students

Santa Fe, New Mexico – January 23, 2004 – First, New Mexico-grown potatoes, then watermelons and now green chile for the hungry kids attending the state’s public schools. So far, four school districts – including Albuquerque Public Schools – have ordered 800 cases (4,800 pounds) of frozen green chile for menu items like burritos and green chile stew.

New Mexico is one of several states participating in the USDA-sponsored Farm to School Program. The program’s goal is to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to schools by partnering with local farmers who benefit economically. The department received \$200,000 from the USDA for the 2003-2004 school year. This is the second straight year that the department has participated in the program.

“I want to continue to expand the amount and the types of nutritious food that we offer to school districts’ breakfast and lunch menus,” said Katie Falls, director of the department’s Income Support Division, which also manages the Farm to School Program. “Our next goal is to provide locally-grown apples and tomatoes.”

Each day, an average of 180,000 lunches and 80,000 breakfasts are served in New Mexico public schools. The department’s Income Support Division provides about 20 percent of all food served in public schools through the USDA’s National School Lunch Program.

Bueno Foods, a participant in last year’s Governor’s Hunger Summit, will deliver a shipment of green chile to the Food and Nutrition Services (FANS) warehouse in Albuquerque (1425 Williams SE) on Monday, January 26, 2004 at 8 a.m.