



WHAT'S NEW IN FDPIR?

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FROM THE FDD DIRECTOR

Cathie McCullough

We are pleased to launch our first newsletter targeted specifically to FDPIR ITO's and States. We hope it will improve our efforts to keep you up-to-date on all pertinent and important FDPIR issues including ordering, delivery, multi-food warehouse, ECOS changes or enhancements, nutrition, food package, and other areas of interest to you. Also, this newsletter should enable you to share information with your local recipients.

We know that open communication and dialogue are important to you and to us, and we believe that this newsletter will be an excellent way to make sure that we provide you with timely program updates, clarifications, and explanations on FDPIR issues and concerns. We encourage you to tell us if there is a particular issue you would like us to address in the next newsletter (see last page for how to contact us).

We continue to receive questions about the food package changes we made last year and why we had to make them. We worked closely with the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group (see members on page 3) to add new items. We replaced corn syrup, butter, shortening, and luncheon meat with turkey ham, beef roast, 1% ultra-high temperature milk, canned chicken, and fresh tomatoes. These changes are in keeping with FNS' continuing efforts to align commodities in all of our programs with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DG's). The products that we have replaced provide minimal nutritional value, offering only empty calories without adding any nutritional value from vitamins and minerals. As you are also aware, the obesity rate in America has increased in the last twenty years, and there has been a rise in nutrition-related illnesses such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and hypertension.

More specific reasons why these products were replaced in the FDPIR food package are addressed below:

- **Corn syrup** – Corn syrup contributes calories with few, if any, nutrients to the diet. The DG's recommend that we choose and prepare foods with little added sugars (caloric sweeteners). Added sugars provide calories but few or no vitamins or minerals.
- **Butter** – Butter is high in both saturated fat and cholesterol. The DG's recommend keeping total fat intake between 20-35% of total calories in the diet for adults, with most fats coming from sources of polyunsaturated and mono-unsaturated fatty acids like fish, nuts, and vegetable oils.
- **Shortening** – Shortening's nutritional value offers only calories, saturated fat, and trans fat, and the DG's encourage consuming fats coming from sources of polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fatty acids such as fish, nuts, and vegetable oils. Also, the DG's recommend keeping trans fatty acid consumption as low as possible, consuming less than 10% of calories from saturated fatty acids, and limiting intake of fats and oils high in saturated and/or trans fatty acids. Vegetable oil will continue to be available to FDPIR for use in cooking and food preparation.
- **Canned luncheon meat** – This product is relatively higher in fat and sodium compared to other canned meat offered in the food package. This directly conflicts with the recommendations in the DG's that Americans limit their intake of fat, and consume less than 2,300 mg of sodium per day. This product will be phased out over the summer as the replacement products arrive in stock.

While we do our best to work through the FDPIR Directors and other members of the Food Package Review Work Group, there are times when we must make product changes for all of our programs. It is our obligation as commodity program administrators to continually assess the nutritional value of our commodity offerings, and make

changes across all programs, when necessary. After listening to what recipients have been requesting over the years, taking into consideration our discussions with the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group, and taking the DG's, cost, convenience, and availability into consideration, we are offering five new healthier commodities to the food package: frozen uncooked roast beef, frozen cooked turkey ham roast, 12.5 ounce canned chicken, 1% ultra-high temperature (UHT) milk, and fresh tomatoes. We believe that these products will increase the value of the FDPIR food package to your recipients and will better support our collective goal of offering high quality, nutritious foods to FDPIR participants. More information on these products is found on page 4.

I also want to remind you that the FDPIR Nutrition Talk Listserve was developed last year. This is an electronic mail discussion group that spotlights food, nutrition, and health education and research issues related to Native Americans, particularly those participating in FDPIR. The goal is to promote open communication and facilitate the exchange of information between tribal communities; Federal, State, and local agencies; researchers, and other organizations. All members of the listserve are encouraged to post appropriate information that they think will be helpful to others.

If you have not already joined the FDPIR Nutrition Talk Listserve, I encourage you to sign up today. You can subscribe online at:
<http://fnic.nal.usda.gov/fdpiir-nutrition-talk>.

My staff and I are committed to improving communications with you to facilitate your efforts to successfully administer FDPIR. Customer satisfaction is our goal, and we look forward to working with you this year. We hope that this newsletter will be most beneficial and helpful to you. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to us at the addresses listed on the last page of this newsletter.



Food Package Review Work Group

Your representatives are:

Nancy Egan, Shoshone Paiute
Ray Capoeman, Quinault Nation
Charles "Red" Gates, Standing Rock Sioux
Roxanna Newsom, Chickasaw Nation
Betty Jo Graveen, Lac du Flambeau
Lorraine Davis, Navajo Nation
Pat Roberts, Menominee

The work group also includes nutrition and health experts from:

Menominee Tribal Health Clinic
Chickasaw Health System
Center for Disease Control & Prevention
Crow/Northern Cheyenne Indian Hospital
FNS

COMMODITY AVAILABILITY UPDATE

This newsletter will help us to keep you updated about commodity availability. Sometimes USDA is unable to purchase a commodity, or enough of a product to fill all orders. This may happen because of a product shortage, for example. Also, sometimes vendors do not bid and/or have reached their maximum capacity. In those cases, the delivery of some commodities may be delayed until we can make the purchases.

The following will update you on some recent product availability issues:

- **Cranberry Apple Juice (A279):** USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) received no bids for March deliveries of cranberry apple juice due to a shortage of cranberries. This product is not expected to be available until the new crop in the fall.
- **Egg Mix (A570):** The commercial industry reports that egg mix is in short supply right now. This product is expected to be plentiful after the Easter holiday.
- **Roasted Peanuts (B501):** USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA) has received no bids for this commodity for the past two purchase cycles. We hope to be able to purchase this product and have it in federal inventory soon.
- **Pasta product shortfall (B425 Macaroni and B835 Spaghetti):** FSA has been unable to purchase the macaroni and spaghetti because of a shortage of semolina wheat. As a result, over half of February and March 2008 orders were not purchased. The unmet orders were re-listed on the April through June 2008 invitation for bids, and we hope to be able to purchase these products. Please remember that it takes some time to get from purchase to arrival in inventory.



HALLMARK/WESTLAND BEEF RECALL

As you know, the Hallmark/Westland Meat Packing Company has recalled a large amount of raw and frozen beef products. The recall affects 28 Tribes in 10 States: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. You have been given instructions on how to dispose of any of the frozen beef chubs you may have received as a commodity through FDPIR. Beef chubs you have received from other vendors are safe to use.

Westland beef can be identified by its Federal Establishment No. (EST 336), which will be on the shipping containers and on the chubs, as well as the pack date. For more information, go to: www.usda.gov/actions.

- **Frozen Turkey Ham (A581):** This new product is now available in Americold's Carthage, Missouri warehouse and Paris Brothers Kansas City, Missouri warehouse for March multi-food orders. This product will be available for April through June multi-food orders. Supplies of the frozen turkey ham are expected to be plentiful.
- **Roast Beef (A613):** We expect this product to be available starting in late April for multi-food orders.
- **UHT Fluid Milk 1% (B385):** This product should be available by April for multi-food orders. We have purchased it successfully in the past for other programs and we are expecting vendors to bid.
- **Canned Pineapple (A446):** The only domestic vendor that provided commodity canned pineapple products for the commodity programs will no longer be producing this product, so it can no longer be offered in the food package. We encourage ITO's and States to order other available fruits and vegetables.
- **Canned Turkey (A554):** Currently, the turkey supply in the U.S. is not enough to meet the demands of the program. USDA did not receive any bids from vendors during the last invitation. This year turkey supply has been down due to the use of an antibiotic (Fluoroquinolones) that has prevented more than 10% of the turkeys from being available. This is in addition to an existing 3% decline in available turkeys. The market is not expected to be any better within the next 12 months, continuing to make turkeys scarce. Therefore, this product will be replaced with an improved canned chicken (see page 5 for details).
- **Canned Pumpkin (A164):** The Food Package Review Work Group discussed making canned pumpkin available only during the winter season. It was reported that this item was not moving through the warehouses and that participants were generally only taking it during the winter holiday season. As a result, there

were low demands during the remaining fiscal year. On the May 2007 conference call, the FDPIR Food Package Review Work Group agreed to offer canned pumpkin on a seasonal basis.



LOW SODIUM CANNED VEGETABLES

In our continual efforts to offer nutritious foods to FDPIR recipients, USDA is ensuring that its commodities closely follow the recommendations provided in the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. By offering healthier commodities, such as low sodium canned vegetables, we are able to help promote health, prevent obesity, and combat problems associated with poor nutrition.

We have been working with the vegetable industry to lower the sodium levels in our canned vegetables. Beginning this fiscal year, we began offering our canned tomato and spaghetti sauces and canned dry beans products with sodium levels reduced to 140 mg per serving. By reducing the sodium level to 140 mg per serving, we will be able to offer a palatable food choice that also meets FDA's nutrient content claim for low sodium foods.

By Fall 2009, we plan to reduce the sodium level in all other canned vegetables that we provide.

These low sodium canned vegetables are becoming more popular commercially. Once foods lower in salt are offered for a period of time, taste for salt tends to decrease. You may use other seasonings and herbs to enhance the flavor of these commodities.

NEW PRODUCTS FOR FDPIR

We are in the process of making some exciting changes to the FDPIR food package. We are adding the following new foods in FDPIR: frozen fully cooked turkey ham, frozen beef roast, ultra high temperature (UHT) 1% fluid milk, and fresh tomatoes. In addition, because the canned turkey meat is no longer available, we worked with the Food Package Review Work Group to find a replacement. After these discussions, we sent group members samples of a new and improved canned chicken to evaluate. Since the response to the taste testing was favorable, we have added the 12.5 ounce canned chicken to the food package.

We believe FDPIR participants are going to like the new products, especially the new meat products. Once all of the new products are available in federal inventory, we will phase out the canned luncheon meat.

Information on the new products can be found in the chart below.

Commodity Code	Product	Anticipated Availability	Guide Rates (Maximum issuance per person/ per month)
A581	Frozen turkey ham, fully cooked (2 pounds)	March 2008	Up to 3 units per person per month (may be substituted for canned or other frozen meats)
A613	Frozen beef roast (2 pounds)	April 2008	Up to 3 units per person per month (may be substituted for canned or other frozen meats)
B385	1% ultra high temperature milk (32 fluid ounce aseptic carton)	April 2008	Up to 4 units per person per month (may be substituted for the instant non-fat dry milk, which is issued one 25.6 ounce box per person per two months)
A532	Canned chicken (12.5 ounce can)	March 2008	2 cans = 1 unit; up to 3 units per person per month (may be substituted for other canned or frozen meats)
F215	Fresh tomatoes (1 pound)	January 2008	1 pound may be exchanged for 1 can of fruit or vegetables up to 18 cans per person per month

ECOS IMPROVEMENT: SO YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING INTO FEDERAL INVENTORY

We added a new column to the Multi-food catalog to show expected deliveries. The previous catalog for Multi-food requisitions did not show commodities with a zero balance at the national warehouses. This change has been made to enable multi food users to know when commodities are out of stock in the national warehouses and when to expect deliveries.

The new column is labeled as "Pending Replenishment" and shows deliveries expected within the next 76 days to the national warehouses.

Reminder: Please update your 2008 ECOS commodity delivery schedule for any of your sites' non-delivery dates. Examples of non-delivery dates might be State and/or tribal holidays. Also, if you have a delivery date scheduled during the timeframe of the NAFDPIR conference (June 22nd thru the 26th), you might want to make *that* date a non-delivery date so an order is not placed that you won't be able to accept.



**FISCAL YEAR 2008
ADMINISTRATIVE
FUNDING FOR FDPIR**

This year Congress appropriated \$34.7 million for FDPIR administrative funding. This is a substantial increase over fiscal year (FY) 2007 funding. Listed below are the FY 2008 regional allocation amounts under the new funding methodology and the FY 2007 regional allocation amounts.

As our Administrator Roberto Salazar stated in his October 31, 2007, letter to Tribal and State officials, we are implementing a new methodology for allocating FDPIR administrative funding on a pilot basis in FY 2008. A copy of this letter can be viewed at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/FundingWkGrp>). We are requesting input from the

Tribes and State agencies on the new funding methodology that is being piloted this year and how it is impacting their programs. We will review the comments and consider proposals for modifications to the funding methodology that was used in FY 2008. We will also confer with our Regional offices on the effectiveness of the funding methodology piloted in FY 2008.

Contact information for submitting comments is listed in Mr. Salazar's October 31, 2007, letter. There is no deadline for comments, but the sooner they are received, the more useful they will be in evaluating the funding methodology that was used in FY 2008. Comments received will be posted on the FDPIR Funding Work Group website at:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/FundingWkGrp>.

FY 2007 and 2008 FDPIR Administrative Funding Allocations by Region*

	Northeast Region	Southeast Region	Midwest Region	Mountain Plains Region	Southwest Region	Western Region
FY 2007	\$272,327	\$198,770	\$2,898,940	\$7,401,854	\$7,702,825	\$8,182,195
FY 2008	\$294,598	\$495,597	\$4,342,434	\$8,397,852	\$9,706,133	\$10,162,310

* Does not include Nutrition Education funding and earmarked funding for program implementation in Alaska

REMINDER!

Please remember to sign and date the inbound bill of lading (BOL) for your commodity deliveries. The shipping warehouse (Americold or Paris Brothers) will not be paid unless the BOL is signed and dated.

FNS ANNOUNCES NUTRITION EDUCATION FUNDING FOR FDPIR

We recently released the request for application for our Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Nutrition Education (FDPNE) grant program. Approximately \$1 million dollars is available in fiscal year 2008 to fund nutrition education projects targeted at Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) participants.

While only Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) and State agencies (SAs) that currently administer FDPIR are eligible to apply for this funding, ITOs and SAs are highly encouraged to collaborate with federal, state, local, and/or tribal nutrition education providers when designing their proposals.

Proposals should address one or more of the following key behaviors in FDPIR participants and those eligible to participate in FDPIR:

- a) Increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and/or fat-free or low-fat dairy products.
- b) Engaging in physical activity as part of a healthful lifestyle.
- c) Balancing caloric intake from food and beverage with calories expended.
- d) Any other behavioral outcome consistent with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPyramid, as long as the primary emphasis remains on dietary quality (i.e., the selection and consumption of healthful foods within a limited budget).

The full Request for Application can be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/default.htm>. The completed application is due **Friday, February 29, 2008**.

For more information about FDPNE funding, please contact Theresa Geldard at (703) 305-2669 or by e-mail at Theresa.Geldard@fns.usda.gov.

FDPIR EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Senate Appropriations Committee, in Senate Report 110-134, directed the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct an assessment of equipment and facility needs in FDPIR and to report on the findings within 120 days of enactment of the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 110-161).

Last month, we sent you an equipment and facility needs assessment form, and asked you to return it to your Regional Office by February 15, 2008.

We will compile this information for FNS' report to Congress, and hope to be able to provide them with an accurate projection of the need for equipment and facility upgrades for FDPIR for the next few years. A future issue of this newsletter will summarize your input and our report to Congress.

Thank you for completing this survey. Your feedback is very important to us in our efforts to report this information to Congress in a timely manner.

NEEDS SURVEY FOR NEW PRODUCTS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!

In November, we sent out a food preference survey to all ITOs and State agencies that administer FDPIR. This survey asked for input on your need for the new commodities we are adding to the food package: frozen turkey ham, frozen beef roast, 12.5 ounce canned chicken, and 1% UHT milk boxes, for the months of March through December 2008.

This information has helped us better estimate household interest for the new products as we add them to the FDPIR food package. We want to make sure that we purchase enough of these commodities to meet your needs each month. At the same time, we do not want to purchase more than can be issued to households within a reasonable period of time.

FOOD PACKAGE PREFERENCE SURVEY TO HELP US BETTER MEET YOUR NEEDS

We will be asking for your help again with another survey so we can better plan all of our commodity purchases and deliveries into federal inventory. We used to estimate replenishment needs in federal inventory with past ITO/State agency orders. However, changes in ordering zones, difficulties in purchasing certain products, and other issues leading to food shortages have caused ITOs and State agencies to alter their normal ordering patterns. Also, the new food items are expected to change ordering patterns as you become more familiar with your clients' changes in product selections.

Since our old way of estimating replenishment needs may not reflect your needs, we want to try a new way to replenish inventory so that we can better meet your clients' preferences and your ordering needs. Later this Spring, we plan to issue a comprehensive survey that covers all products in the FDPIR food package. We will ask you to estimate the quantity of each product that you expect to order over a period of several months. However, before we send the survey to you, we want to give your clients time to try some of the new products so you can get a better feel from them on the acceptability of these new products.

COMMENTS

Please let us know if there are any commodity-related issues that you would like us to address in future editions of this newsletter.

If you have any questions or comments on our products or services, please e-mail them directly to our Program Support Branch at: fdd-psb@fns.usda.gov. You can also write to the Food Distribution Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 508, Alexandria, VA 22302.