



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

Room 3932-S, STOP 0256
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0256

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All Poultry Processors

NOTICE TO THE TRADE – February 2007

In December 2004, a Notice to the Trade was issued by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Poultry Programs and the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) authorizing the substitution of breast meat for skin and mechanically separated meat (MSM) utilizing the Standard Yield program when processing donated bulk poultry commodities. This was a one year pilot program with the goal of lowering the fat content of products produced for the National School Lunch Program and other USDA food assistance programs. Because the substitution ratio used did not reflect the true price relationship between breast meat and skin/MSM, there was very little processor participation.

AMS and FNS are issuing this Notice to the Trade announcing a second pilot program authorizing the substitution of boneless/skinless meat for skin and/or MSM. Specifically, boneless/skinless breast, thigh, and/or drum meat can be used. Wing meat cannot be used. Processors can substitute boneless/skinless meat for skin and/or MSM at a ratio of 1:10 (1 pound of boneless/skinless meat for every 10 pounds of skin/MSM). Using chicken as an example, the Standard Yield equivalent for chicken skin and MSM is 3,600 pounds and 3,960 pounds, respectively. Chicken processors will be allowed to substitute 360 pounds of boneless/skinless chicken meat for 3,600 pounds of skin (a ratio of 1:10) and 396 pounds of boneless/skinless chicken meat for 3,960 pounds of MSM (a ratio of 1:10).

These changes will give chicken and turkey processors the incentive to improve the nutritional content of the end-product produced by making these substitutions.

To assure this pilot program achieves the desired results, Poultry Programs personnel will monitor the use of these options by processors and changes made to end products delivered to recipients. This program will be evaluated after one year to determine if any changes should be made.

If you have any questions, you may contact Richard Lawson at (202) 720-4411.

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