

**FDPIR Food Package Review
June 29, 2006 Conference Call Notes**

	Participated on Conference Call	Not Present
1.	Karen Kell, FNS-SERO	Betty Jo Graveen, Lac du Flambeau FDP
2.	Nancy Theodore, FNS-HQ	Dennis Pearson, AMS
3.	Pat Roberts, Menominee FDP	Lorraine Davis, Navajo Nation
4.	Ray Capoeman, Quinault FDP	Melanie Todd, Chickasaw Health System
5.	Ron Ulibarri, AMS-HQ	Nancy Gaston, FNS-HQ
6.	Rosalind Cleveland, FNS-HQ	Red Gates, Standing Rock Sioux
7.	Sarah Kellogg-Eby, FNS-WRO	Roxana Newsom, Chickasaw FDP
8.	Sharon Hadder, FSA-HQ	Scott Krueger, Menominee Tribal Clinic
9.	Sheldon Gordon, FNS-HQ	Tony Nertoli, Sault Ste. Marie
10.	Steve Freeman, FSA-HQ	
11.	Susan Anderson, CDC	

The food package review work group assembled on the conference call at 1:00PM (EST) on Thursday, June 29, 2006.

I. Sheldon Gordon, FNS-HQ took roll call at 1:10PM, thanked those who could make the call and pointed out changes to the agenda. Changes to the agenda included the introduction of Ron Ulibarri (AMS-HQ) to the group and order of sequence to accommodate AMS participation on the call. Rosalind Cleveland, Branch Chief of the Program Support Branch, also welcomed members.

II. Ron U. (AMS-HQ) provided updates on items from the 2002-2004 review cycle:

A. Cream of Mushroom soup – AMS originally thought the group’s second request for either a low-fat or low-sodium cream of mushroom soup was also not available for USDA procurement. However, after further investigation, it seems vendors may be willing to produce either type of the soup pending the quantity (~approx. 4 or more trucks loads would be needed) to be ordered and our product specification. Currently, our soup specification would require many vendors to shut down their production lines to make a soup that meets our requirements. Some vendors are not willing to do this because it is costly and time consuming process. AMS will further research possibility of product for the program along with obtaining nutritional data. They believe the information can be obtained within the next two weeks. FNS-WRO provided number of truckloads of tomato soup ordered in the past for their region which amounted to 10 truck loads.

Task 1a: FNS-HQ will supply AMS with the number of truck loads of vegetable/tomato soups taken for all 7 FNS regions by **July 28, 2006**.

Task 1b: AMS will provide updates to FNS by **August 17, 2006**.

B. Juice Concentrate – It seems obtaining the juice concentrate in aluminum cans versus the aseptic waxed paper carton is doable. The aluminum can option has increased the number of vendors willing to produce the product w/o any complications of the fortification requirements. AMS has been asked to survey vendors on the aluminum can’s strength/metal thickness due to problems in the past that have occurred with aluminum cans leaking and easily bursting. In addition, AMS has also been asked to inquire about packaging (secondary containers) for stacking limitations in warehouses.

Task 2: AMS to provide product status to FNS by **August 17, 2006**.

C. Hominy- FSA concluded that the dried hominy is not available for procurement by USDA. Dried hominy is not domestically grown. Today, after earlier discussions with an AMS representative it seems canned hominy may be a possibility.

Task 3: AMS will again re-investigate this option to determine if canned hominy is available and provide information to FNS by **Thursday, August 3, 2006**.

III. FNS provided updates pertaining to alternatives for canned meats. The group was informed that AMS is looking into 2 products: Beef in Tomato Sauce to replace the Canned Beef in Natural Juices and Chili w/o Beans to replace Luncheon Meat on a test buy basis. However, before any changes will take place, a taste test as well as other pertinent data from AMS is needed (cost, nutritionals, etc.). The alternative canned meats were introduced to the work group over a year ago as part of an agency effort to decrease the amount of sodium and fats offered in all programs including FDPIR. The initiative is to also coincide with the recommendations given in the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and MyPyramid food guidance system. Canned meats have been offered in our programs for a number of reasons e.g. ease of preparation as well as due to storage issues for recipients that currently do not have refrigeration units. However, it is my understanding that refrigeration units for all ITO's will be obtained by the end of the calendar year.

Task 4: FNS-HQ will evaluate the take rates to determine if removal or a reduction in guide rate is possible for canned vs. frozen meats by **August 17, 2006**.

IV. FSA-Sharon H. provided updates on products previously listed in the chart. See below. Reduced-fat Bakery Mix is currently unavailable due to the sole vendor went out of business.

Task 5: FSA will explore pros/cons, availability and cost for 2% UHT milk which would replace instant NDM. FSA will also verify info and update prices in chart by **August 17, 2006**.

Col A	Col B	Col C	Col D	Col E	Col F
Item	Requested Pack Size	General Availability	Cost/lb Proposed Item	Cost/lb Offered item	Comments (as of 6/29/06)
Quick Oats	24oz tube or approx.	18oz tube offered by current vendors	\$0.7781 for 18oz tube	\$0.3518	Prices needed to be updated; these prices are as of 10/05.
Reduced-fat Bakery Mix	20oz or approximate	Sole source contractor can provide any pack size			Current vendor went out of business, FSA seeking alternative vendor
Instant non-fat dry milk (NDM)	13oz or approximate	Available from current vendors	\$1.7981	\$1.4600	Prices needed to be updated; these prices are as of 10/05.
Yellow Process American Cheese (sliced)	2lb or approximate	Available from current vendors			Need Prices
Yellow Reduced-fat Cheese Blend (sliced and block)	2lb or approximate	Available from current vendors			Need Prices – however, reduced cheese runs about \$0.30/lb higher than regular cheese
Saltine Crackers (no salt top)	8oz or approximate	Sole source contractor can provide any pack size		\$0.7125	Prices needed to be updated; these prices are as of 10/05.
Iron-fortified Cream of Wheat or equivalent	18oz to 42oz				Need data – no update provided.

Macaroni and Cheese	7.25oz or approximate	Regular and low-fat		FSA will obtain price, nutrition facts, and other pertinent info for group. The current product specs were based on the ones used for schools (thick walled - able to maintain quality on the serving line). Will look into a more suitable product that meets our needs.
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V. Vegetable shortening was discussed among the group regarding the guide rate and take rate. Pat Roberts indicated the amount of shortening taken has reduced. FNS will evaluate the take rates to determine if removal or a reduction in guide rate is possible. Also review other oils like safflower and corn that was provided some time ago as a replacement.

Task 6: FNS-HQ will evaluate the take rates to determine if removal or a reduction in guide rate is possible. Also review other oils like safflower and corn that was provided some time ago as a replacement by **August 17, 2006**.

VI. Food Package Review Philosophy – Sheldon stated to the group due to the number of items currently open for the 2002-2004 and 2004- 2006 review cycle that we should re-strategize and review high and medium priority list. This would enable us to help close out the 2004-2006 review cycle. Any remaining item(s) may be table for the 2007-2009 review cycle. With closing out the two cycles and moving the review cycle back on an odd number year, we can accomplish our tasks and see the results from the product implementations. Rather than continuously changing products and not seeing the true impact it has upon the program e.g. nutritionally, programmatic, or financial progress.

Task 7: All Group members please submit to Sheldon by **Thursday, August 10, 2006** your top two or three items from the existing high and medium priority lists for the Group to focus on accomplishing by December 2006.

VII. Calendar year (CY) versus fiscal year (FY). The discussion came up if the review cycle should be based on CY or FY. With the current trend of implementing products, it may be more advantageous to work off a calendar year to help close out the two open cycles. However, for reporting purposes the fiscal year may be better suited to help program directors and FNS staff to report and update progress of the review group. What we need from everyone is which reporting cycle work best for them. FNS will submit a survey to the work group to determine which cycle is the best for the group.

Task 8a: FNS-HQ will submit survey to group by **July 21, 2006**.

Task 8b: All group members please respond to survey by **August 3, 2006**.

Next Conference Call -

The next work group session will be at 1:00 PM Eastern time (10:00 AM Pacific Time) on either **Thursday, August 24 or 31, 2006**. An email to the group will be sent out for a group consensus of the date. Sheldon will provide the call-in information when it is available.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM EST.

Minutes submitted by,
Sheldon Gordon