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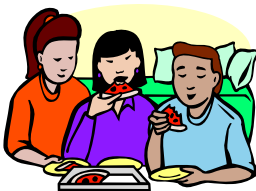
# Special Edition

## School Programs

# Commodity Update

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## Updated NSLP Commodity Fact Sheets Now Available!



The Food Distribution Division (FDD) is pleased to announce the release of the updated National School Lunch

Program (NSLP) Commodity Fact Sheets! The hallmark of these commodity fact sheets is their new nutrient information and user-friendly format. You can now download the fact sheets from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) FDD website (see page 2).

### Background

The NSLP commodity fact sheets had not been revised or re-designed in over a decade. Last year, FDD collected feedback from many schools regarding the content and format of the fact sheets that would best serve their needs. We worked very closely with the Child Nutrition Division and then contracted with the National Food Service Management Institute to update the over 250 fact sheets. The project took 13 months to complete.

### How are the New Fact Sheets Different?

#### *Include Commodity Codes*

The new fact sheets now include the 4-digit USDA commodity code for each product on its own separate fact sheet. This is the feature that was requested most often by schools.

#### *New Nutrient Information*

Besides updating the nutrient data of each commodity, the list of nutrients and unit of measure for which data are provided has been expanded to include:

- *Trans* fat (g)
- Dietary fiber (g)
- Sugars (g)
- Magnesium (mg)
- Potassium (mg)
- Vitamin A (RAE)
- Vitamin E (mg)

Since Vitamin A (RE) data is no longer used, it was eliminated from the updated fact sheets.

Every effort was made to provide data for every nutrient listed on the fact sheets. However, where data could not be found, the abbreviation “N/A” (meaning not available)

was noted on the nutrient information chart. When a “0” appears, it represents zero for that nutrient. In compliance with Food and Drug Administration regulations, the negligible value of  $\leq .5$  is rounded to “0.”

The main data source for nutrients on the fact sheets was USDA's National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 19 (SR-19). If the SR-19 database did not have an exact match, a database food closely resembling the commodity food was chosen to provide nutrient data. The description of the food item actually used to supply the nutrient data was noted above the nutrient information chart. Another source was nutrient data obtained and averaged from vendors.

### ***Graphic tie-in with the MyPyramid logo***

Each fact sheet includes the MyPyramid logo graphic representing the food group for that commodity highlighted on the Pyramid. The MyPyramid key message for the four food groups into which the commodities are grouped is included along with the MyPyramid.gov web address.

### ***CN crediting information***

Each fact sheet provides the CN crediting information towards meeting the NSLP meal pattern requirements, when available.

### ***New food safety guidance***

The latest food safety information is on each fact sheet, including storage, thawing, and cooking instructions and correct internal temperatures for cooked meats and poultry.

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***Prepared by: Program Support Branch,  
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, Food  
Distribution Division***

## **Where can you find the new fact sheets?**

To access the new NSLP Commodity Fact Sheets, go to the FDD website at: [www.commodityfoods.usda.gov/facts.htm](http://www.commodityfoods.usda.gov/facts.htm) and, under the heading “FNS/Food Distribution Fact Sheets,” click on “*Commodity Fact Sheets w/Commodity Codes for Schools/Institutions.*” You will be able to view and print either individual fact sheets or all of the fact sheets. They are arranged either alphabetically by commodity title or numerically by commodity code.

We have also added a permanent link to the fact sheets on the ECOS “Links” page. The link is available at both the State and Recipient agency levels in ECOS.

For a limited time only, August 1 through September 28, FNS is offering free copies of a 2007 NSLP Commodity Fact Sheet CD for State agencies and school districts to order for their schools. Individual copies to schools will not be processed, but anyone may download and print the commodity fact sheets from the FDD website.

The fact sheet CD is designed to fit in the vinyl disk sleeve attached to the front cover of the *USDA Recipes for Schools* published April 2006.

## **Acronym List**

|      |                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| CN   | Child Nutrition                      |
| ECOS | Electronic Commodity Ordering System |
| FDD  | Food Distribution Division           |
| FNS  | Food and Nutrition Service           |
| NSLP | National School Lunch Program        |
| USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture       |