

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM



*2004 Commodity Acceptability Progress (CAP) Report
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
Top Five Most Acceptable Commodities By Category
(34 States Responding)*

CATEGORY	COMMODITY	PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS
MEATS	Beef 40 Ground Frozen	91%
	Turkey Roasts	88%
	Chicken Breaded Frozen & Chicken Diced	59%
	Turkey Breast Deli Frozen	32%
	Chicken Fajita Strips	29%
MEAT ALTERNATES	Cheese Process Sliced Yellow & Peanut Butter 5 Smooth	71%
	Eggs Whole 5 Frozen	35%
	Beans Vegetarian 10 Canned	32%
	Cheese Mozzarella Lite Shredded Frozen	29%
	Cheese Mozzarella LMPS Shredded 30	29%
FRUITS	Applesauce	82%
	Pineapple Tidbits Canned	65%
	Fruit Mix & Peaches Cling Sliced Canned	59%
	Peaches Cling Diced Canned	41%
	Peaches Cup 4.4 Freestone Diced Frozen	35%
VEGETABLES	Potato Rounds Frozen	82%
	Beans Green 10 Canned	71%
	Potatoe Wedges Frozen	65%
	Potatoes Oven Frozen	56%
	Corn Liquid Whole Kernel Canned	50%
GRAINS	Macaroni Elbow	65%
	Macaroni Spiral Rotini	53%
	Flour All Purpose 40 Bleached	44%
	Cereal Oats 3 Rolled	38%
	Spaghetti 2 Enriched	24%
OTHERS	Oil Vegetable	82%
	Shortening Vegetable 3	50%
	Milk Nonfat Dry Instant 25 & Milk Nonfat Dry Instant 24	32%
	Shortening Liquid Vegetable & Oil Soybean Low Sat Fat	18%
	Chocolate Pudding 3.5 oz	15%

*2004 Commodity Acceptability Progress (CAP) Report
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
Top Five Least Acceptable Commodities by Category
(34 States Responding)*

CATEGORY	COMMODITY	PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS
MEATS	Chicken Cut-Up	50%
	Turkey Whole	47%
	Chicken Canned 50 Boned	35%
	Tuna Canned Chunk Light 66.5	29%
	Pork Leg Roast Frozen	21%
MEAT ALTERNATES	Egg Mix 10	35%
	Beans Refried Canned	26%
	Beans Vegetarian 10 Canned	24%
	Beans Garbanzo Canned	21%
	Beans Black Pea 2 Canned & Beans Baby Lima Canned	18%
FRUITS	Apricots 10 Canned	47%
	Apricot Slices Frozen	38%
	Cherries 10 Canned Red Tart Pitted & Apple Slices	26%
	Grapefruit Fresh	24%
	Oranges Juice Frozen Concentrate	21%
VEGETABLES	Carrots Canned	35%
	Peas Canned & Sweet Potatoes w/Syrup Canned	32%
	Beans Green Frozen	29%
	Sweet Potatoes Mashed Frozen	26%
	Carrots 30	24%
GRAINS	Cornmeal 40 Degermed & Grits Corn White 40	24%
	Grits Fine Yellow	21%
	Macaroni Spiral Rotini & Cereal Oats 50 Rolled	15%
	Cereal Oats 25 & Flour Masa 50 Yellow	12%
	Macaroni Elbow & Rice Brown 25	12%
OTHERS	Milk Nonfat Dry Instant 25	38%
	Shortening Vegetable 50	24%
	Milk Nonfat Dry Instant 25 & Milk Nonfat Instant 2	21%
	Oil Soybean Low Saturated Fat	18%
	Oil Vegetable Bulk	15%

2004 Commodity Acceptability Progress (CAP) Report
Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Produce Program
Top Five Most Acceptable Items By Category
(34 States Responding)

CATEGORY	ITEM (FRESH FRUIT/VEGETABLE)	PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS
FRUITS	Apples	59%
	Oranges	56%
	Strawberries	38%
	Watermelon & Grapes	35%
	Canteloupe	26%
VEGETABLES	Baby Carrots	47%
	Salad Mix	38%
	Broccoli & Baking Potatoes	32%
	Lettuce	26%
	Carrot Sticks	24%

2004 Commodity Acceptability Progress (CAP) Report

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

Product Improvement

The following is a brief explanation of the problems found with each least acceptable product identified above, as well as any other USDA donated commodity that NSLP schools would like to see improved.

Problem Code Table	
1.	Overall Product Evaluation – program recipients do not like; too labor intensive.
2.	Nutrition – too much fat, grease, salt/sodium, and/or sugar.
3.	Quality – bad taste/ flavor; poor texture; too tough; strong aroma/smell; cookability/meltability problems; or poor appearance.
4.	Delivery/Timing - damaged packages/products; timeliness of deliveries.
5.	Packaging - poor quality or wrapping; pack size too small; or pack size too large.
6.	Other (see "Additional Comments" block).

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Problem Code</u>	<u>Total Respondents</u>	<u>Comments</u>
A616 Beef Patties VPP	1,2,3,4,5,6	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Product is too tough. •Product is dry, and pack size is not uniform.
A565 Turkey Taco Filling	1,2,3,6	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Students do not like this product. •Product is very high in fat, and students are already accustomed to beef. •Would prefer to receive pork taco filling.
A529 Turkey Whole	1,2,3,5	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Too labor intensive. •Product contains bone fragments. •Product has too much fat and skin.
A515 Chicken Cut-Up	1,2,3,5,6	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Too labor intensive. •Skin on product is too thick; bags need to be sealed at all times to prevent bacteria risks.
A805 Salmon	1,3	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Children do not care for this type of fish.
A742 Tuna	1,2,3,5,6	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Found bones in product; kids do not like. •Product has a very strong flavor; prefer to receive white tuna. •Product is too watery and not chunky enough; kids do not like.
A507 Chicken Canned	1,2,3,5,6	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Product is stringy. •Poor appearance.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Problem Code</u>	<u>Total Respondents</u>	<u>Comments</u>
A548 Turkey Ham	1,2,3,6	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Prefer other products over this one. •Product is too salty. •Product is too watery. •Product contains a lot of bone fragments and gristles.
A672 Pork Roast	1,2,3,6	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Too labor intensive & salty.
A614 Beef Chuck Roast	1,2,3	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Meat is too tough. •Product is too small, fatty, and hard to slice.
A516 Chicken Breaded Frozen	1,2,3,4,6	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bones found in product. •Product has too much breading, which causes a lot of waste.
A693 Ham Frozen Wateradded	1,2,3,6	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Product contains too much water. •Product is not consistent. •Product has a poor quality, and is too fatty. •Like other products receive over this one. •Product is too grainy, and contains too much sodium and gristle.
A630 Pork Canned	1,2,3,4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments
A908 Beans, Black Turtle	1,2,3	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Not much use for; would like some recipes.
A912 Beans, Baby Lima	1,3,6	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This product is not used.
A942 Beans, Pinto	1,2,3,5,6	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cannot find enough uses for product. •Product is dirty, too dark, often broken, and takes too long to cook.
A084 Beans, Blackeye Canned	1,3	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Children do not like this product.
A091 Beans, Vegetarian Canned	1,2,3,6	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Product has a poor taste and texture; kids will not eat. •Product contains too much sodium. •Product is too juicy, has no flavor, and takes too long to cook.
A575 Egg Mix 10	1,2,3,5	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Product has a poor taste and flavor.
A089 Beans, Garbanzo Canned	1,2,3	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments
A088 Beans, Great Northern Canned	1,3	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Kids do not like this product. •Product has no flavor.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Problem Code</u>	<u>Total Respondents</u>	<u>Comments</u>
A085 Beans, Refried Canned	1,2,3,5,6	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Would prefer to receive dry instead of canned. •Product has a poor texture; is not well accepted. •Product needs more salt. •Cannot find much use for; would like recipes.
B037 Cheese Mozzarella LMPS	3,5	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Would prefer to receive smaller boxes. •Cheese burns before it even melts.
B042 Cheese Mozzarella LMPS	1,2,3,5,6	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Too labor intensive. •Unfavorable taste and texture.
B035 Cheese Mozzarella Lite	3,4,5,6	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Receive complaints of mold.
A416 Peaches Cup	1,2,3,6	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Does not melt easily. •Tends to brown when thawing. •Students do not like this product.
A360 Apricots Canned	1,2,3,5,6	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The cost of this product is high, considering it is only marginally acceptable. •Kids do not like this product. •Product is mushy and too tough. •Not well accepted; kids are not familiar with apricots.
A301 Orange Juice Frozen Conc	1,2,3,5	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Product is very bitter. •Suggest that this product be offered in single serving sizes, because some schools do not use cups.
A345 Apple Slices	1,2,3,6	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Some like and some do not like this product. •Would prefer to receive frozen instead. •Product is too tart and sour. •Product has a very bitter taste, and contains many stems and skin/peel.
A346 Apple Slices Frozen	1,3,5	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments
A358 Apricots Frozen	1,3,5,6	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Product is too tough. •Kids do not like this product.
A367 Blueberries Cultivated	1,3,5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Students do not like this product.
A424 Peaches Freestone Frozen	1,3,4,5,6	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Product turns brown quickly. •Pack size is too large. •Turns black when thawed.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Problem Code</u>	<u>Total Respondents</u>	<u>Comments</u>
A365 Cherries Red Tart Pitted Frz	1,3,5,6	5	•Product is too sour and tart.
A363 Cherries Red Tart Pitted Cnd	1,2,3,5,6	8	•Product is too sour and tart, and needs more sugar. •Product contains a lot of pits, and the color is too dark.
A100 Carrots Canned	1,2,3,5,6	10	•Kids do not like this product; has a poor appearance. •Product has very little flavor, and is very mushy.
A220 Sweet Potatoes Canned	1,2,3,6	12	•Product is not used very often. •Kids will not eat this product.
A070 Green Beans Frozen	1,2,3,4,5,6	10	•Product is not used very often, because it is too hard and stringy. •Like other products received over this one.
A099 Carrots Frozen	1,2,3,4,5,6	11	•Children do not like this product. •This product has no consistency; would prefer to receive diced instead. •Product does not meet specifications. •Pieces and package are too large, and many stems are left on carrots.
A140 Peas Canned	1,2,3,6	9	•Apperance of product is not appealing to kids. •Product has a poor taste and is mushy. •Kids do not like; would prefer to receive frozen instead.
A237 Salsa Canned	1,2,3	7	•Product has very little flavor. •Product is too spicy for children.
A243 Spaghetti Sauce Meatless	1,2,3	5	• No comments
A225 Sweet Potatoes Mashed Frz	1,3,5,6	4	•Kids do not like this product.
A247 Tomatoes Canned	1,3,6	4	•Product is too chunky.
A252 Tomato Paste	1,3,5,6		•Product not used; pack is too large.
A224 Sweet Potatoes Random Cut	1,3,4,5	4	•Kids do not like this product.
B382 Grits Corn White	1,3,5,6	6	•Product is not used very often.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Problem Code</u>	<u>Total Respondents</u>	<u>Comments</u>
B384 Grits Fine Yellow	1,2,3,5,6	7	•Product is not used very often.
B444 Cereal Oats 25	1,3,5,6	4	• No comments
B450 Cereal Oats 50 Rolled	1,3,5	5	•Bags are too large.
B430 Macaroni Elbow	1,3,6	5	•Product is very starchy and does not cook well. •Product does not hold well.
B435 Macaroni Spiral Rotini	1,2,3	4	•Product is inconsistent. •Product does not hold well. •Product is too starchy and does not cook well. •Product has a very heavy flavor.
B545 Rice Brown 25	1,2,3,5	5	• No comments
B142 Cornmeal 40 Degermed Yel	1,3,5	6	•Have yet to find a use for this product.
B114 Milk Nonfat Dry Instant 25	1,3,5,6	13	•Package is too large; not used very often by schools. •Product expires too quickly; difficult to store due to lack of storage space.
B670 Oil Vegetable 1 Gallon	1,3,4,5,6	5	•Because children do not like the taste of this product it is not used very often.
B664 Oil Soybean Low Sat Fat	1,2,3,4,5,6	6	•No longer able to fry with. •Unable to use due to soy allergies. •Would prefer to receive canola oil instead.
B672 Oil Vegetable Bulk	1,2,3,5,6	5	•Pack size is too large. •Difficult to store due to lack of storage space.
B090 Milk Nonfat Dry Instant 24	1,3,5,6	5	•Do not like this product. •Product has a poor taste and texture.
B095 Milk Nonfat Instant 2	1,3,5,6	6	•Pack size is too large. •Pack size is too small. •Product has a poor taste. •Product expires too quickly; there is not much use for.
B682 Salad Dressing Reduced Cal	1,3	4	•This product is not used.
B730 Shortening Vegetable 50	1,5,6	5	•Pack size is too large. •This product is not used by schools. •There is not much use for this product.

2004 Commodity Acceptability Progress (CAP) Report
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
New Products Requested
(23 States Responding)

CATEGORY	COMMODITY	PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS
MEATS	Precooked Beef Cubes	4%
	Mesquite Grilled Chicken Patties	13%
	Grilled Chicken Pieces	9%
	Beef Crumbles Small	4%
	Sausage Links*	4%
	Raw Boneless Chicken Strips	4%
	Chicken Nuggets*	13%
	Chicken Patties*	9%
	Sausage Patties*	4%
	Beef Roasts*	4%
	Beef Fajitas	4%
	Turkey Bologna Deli Meat	9%
	Hot Dogs (Turkey/Beef)	9%
	Meatballs	4%
	Pre-Cooked Frozen Diced Ham	4%
	Salmon Nuggets*	4%
	Turkey Burgers*	4%
	Fish Portions	4%
	Chicken Tenders	4%
	Boneless Chicken	4%
	Ground Chicken	4%
	Beef Franks	4%
	Fish Fillets	4%
Deli Ham Frozen	4%	
Turkey Spaghetti	4%	
MEAT	Egg Patties	9%
ALTERNATES	Sunflower Butter	4%
	Un crustable Peanut Butter	4%
	Boil-in-Bag Whole Eggs	4%
FRUITS	Applesauce Singles	9%
	Mandarin Oranges	4%
	Individual Juices	9%
	Apple Juice**	4%
	Grape Juice**	4%
	Plums Pitted**	4%
VEGETABLES	Broccoli (Frozen)	13%
	Frozen Chopped Vegetables	4%

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National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
New Products Requested
(23 States Responding)

CATEGORY	COMMODITY	PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS	
GRAINS	Tortillas	4%	
	Breads	4%	
	Frozen Bread, Pretzels, Rolls, or Wraps	4%	
	Seasoned Fries	4%	
	Egg Noodles	9%	
	Macaroni & Cheese	4%	
	Potato Hash Browns	4%	
	OTHERS	Condiments	9%
		Margarine	4%
Honey		4%	
Butter		9%	
Sugar		4%	
Cake Mixes		4%	
Powdered Cheese Sauce		4%	
Low Fat Pudding		4%	
PREPARED FOODS	Pizza (Personal Size)	13%	
	Cheese Sauce	13%	
	Soups (Canned, Bagged, or Frozen)	22%	
	Breakfast Items	9%	
	Breaded Mozzarella Sticks	9%	
	Cheese Breadsticks	4%	
	Corn Dogs	4%	
	Pork Rib-Eye Sandwich	4%	
	Veggie Burgers	9%	
	Turkey Chili	4%	
	Beef or Chicken Burritos	4%	

* Items currently offered to NSLP RAs by USDA.

** Requested by Puerto Rico NSLP RAs.

2004 Commodity Acceptability Report

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

General Comments/Recommendations

MEATS

- Pleased with the low-fat content of meats.
 - Would like unbreaded chicken products-grilled or baked.
 - We enjoy the new "meats" from USDA, chicken fajita and taco filling.
- Of what we receive, most are very satisfactory.

MEAT ALTERNATES

- Students love mozzarella sticks.

FRUITS

- Shrink wrap raisins so they do not turn into stones!
- USDA products are very good - canned fruits are great.
- Frozen fruits have been an excellent addition to the program.

VEGETABLES

- Salsa great!
- Would like tater tots or crinkle cuts instead of wedges.

OTHERS

- Puddings great!
- The students love the pudding in a cup and this is a good labor saver.

DoD FRESH PRODUCE

- DoD produce is good, but more expensive than through regular vendor.
- Want more money for the DoD fresh fruit and vegetable program.
- More schools would like to participate in the fresh fruits and vegetable program.
- DoD prices are not competitive with local produce prices.
- DoD asks for orders too far in advance, sometimes trucks run late and we have to purchase locally and produce is smashed.
- Do not receive fresh vegetables, however fresh fruits are delicious.

PACKAGING

- It would be nice if the bags for the vegetables would be tied/sealed shut.
- Smaller cartons- woman handle most of the deliveries.
- Smaller packaging of all commodities - no more than 25 to 30 lbs. per case.
- Smaller packaging when possible.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Generally our schools appreciate the commodities and find them to be satisfactory products.
- Would like to receive any pre-cooked products.
- Would like more processed (less labor intensive) commodities.
- Would like more pre-cooked (heat and serve) commodities.
- Like all of the pre-cooked foods offered.

2004 Commodity Acceptability Report

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

General Comments/Recommendations

MISCELLANEOUS (continued)

- What I receive in USDA products is great, but our state does a great job processing.
- Most of my entitlement dollars are spent on state-processed entrée items.
- Increase dollar level on peaches (A416), strawberries (A417), corn (A110 & A129), green beans (A061).
- General favorable remarks about quality.
- USDA has responded to the schools' need in low fat and low sugar products.
- I think that the overall commodity program and products is as close to perfect as you can get! It has improved 100%!
- Need lower fat entrée items.
- We received our largest quantity so late in the year. Why can't we receive more in September and October?
- Please cut out the flour and milk.
- Many of these products are never ordered (unless perhaps it is a bonus buy because the schools have little use for them, and/or they are not acceptable to students.
- Overall Schools have been happy with the commodities over the past 2 years.
- Schools stated the consistency is the biggest problem-especially when the label changes/supplier changes.
- Schools suggest gearing towards healthier options with lower-fat targets and higher nutritional integrity commodities.
- Schools would like USDA to offer more "Breakfast type" commodities.
- School have seen improvements in the commodities over the year.
- Schools stated "Thank you for helping me to prepare wholesome lunches for students & faculty," keep up the good work.
- A school stated" The products have greatly improved- portion serving sizes are very helpful".
- Schools would like more control over when Group A products are shipped - like Group B.
- Schools would like to have more commodity foods offered (quantity not variety).
- Changes in products offered are meeting NSLP needs.
- Things were much better 2 years ago.