

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 2009

I send my greetings to all those celebrating the 40th anniversary of the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

Healthy habits in our own lives contribute to the goal of a healthier Nation. With a balanced diet of nutritious foods, we can curb the effects and decrease the prevalence of childhood obesity, diabetes, heart problems, and other chronic conditions that afflict many Americans.

Since 1969, the FNS has educated and empowered children, adults, and families to nourish themselves and eat well. Partnering with State and local governments, community organizations, and businesses, the FNS has touched countless lives, helping Americans escape food insecurity and hunger and lead healthier lives in a way that complements American agriculture.

I thank the FNS's dedicated employees for your contributions to America's health and well-being, and I congratulate you on this important milestone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style.