

FDPIR News and Updates

December 2010

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New Foods for the FDPIR Food Package

Bison

After many years and in response to the FDPIR Food Package Workgroup requests, we are again able to provide frozen ground bison as part of the FDPIR food package. The bison is a desirable traditional food and lean protein source. The first deliveries should begin arriving in the national warehouses in December 2010 for distribution to ITOs and recipients through June 2011. The 1-pound chubs of 90% lean ground bison will be limited to one per person per month in exchange for one 1-

pound chub of ground beef or equivalent canned meat product (15.5 oz can or smaller). McGreevy's Mid West Meat Company, a Native American owned and operated company, is the sole supplier of bison to FDPIR. In 1930, Helen Fallis McGreevy, a member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, and Emmett McGreevy, Sr., her husband, established Mid West Meat Company in an existing cold storage building in industrial downtown Wichita. Today the company is known as *McGreevy's Mid West Meat Company*, located at 230 N. West St., in Wichita.

We hope for continued purchasing of bison for part of each year, alternating with turkey roast or similar product. However, both the bison and turkey products are extremely expensive and future purchases will depend on amounts of funds available.

Pinto and Black Beans

Low-sodium pinto and black beans in 15.5 ounce cans are available as of November 2010.

Canned beans are a good, low-fat source of protein and fiber.



Cream of Chicken and Cream of Mushroom Soups

Reduced sodium cream of chicken and cream of mushroom soups are being added to the FDPIR food package. The soups in ready-to-serve, 22-ounce sealable, shelf-stable cartons should be available by late Spring or early Summer 2011. The serving size for these soups is 6 ounces. Each container provides about 3.5 servings, and any leftover soup must be refrigerated after opening. These soups are a hearty and convenient addition to casseroles and to other recipes.

Evaporated Skim Milk

Evaporated skim milk in 12 ounce cans will be available as early as Spring 2011. This milk is lower in total fat and a rich source of calcium and Vitamin D.

Communication and Feedback

USDA Tribal Consultation

Beginning in October 2010, USDA's Office of Tribal Relations hosted the first series of USDA Tribal Consultation Meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to consult with tribal leaders on implementing 2008 Farm Bill requirements and other rules under development.

The following USDA agencies participated in the meetings: Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS), and Rural Development (RD).

The following consultation meetings have already been held:

- October 28-29, 2010 - Rapid City, South Dakota
- November 3-4, 2010 - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- November 8-9, 2010 - Minneapolis, Minnesota
- November 22-23, 2010 - Seattle, Washington
- November 29-30, 2010 - Nashville, Tennessee
- December 1-2, 2010 - Albuquerque, New Mexico

At the opening general session of each meeting, USDA officials provided attendees with an overview of USDA programs and rules under development. The participating USDA agencies held breakout sessions where the rules were further discussed, and tribal leaders were invited to ask questions and offer comments on the rules and other issues.

The following FDPIR rules were discussed at the meetings:

- Proposed Rule – Income Deductions and Resource Eligibility (under development)
- Proposed Rule – Administrative Funding Allocations (published in the Federal Register on September 8, 2010; comment period ended December 7, 2010)
- Final Rule – Amendments related to the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (under development; proposed rule published in the Federal Register on April 27, 2010; comment period ended June 28, 2010)

An additional Tribal Consultation meeting will be held January 10-11, 2011, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Food Package Work Group Meeting

USDA held a two-day face-to-face meeting October 21-22, 2010 in Alexandria, Virginia with the FDPIR Food Package Work Group. This meeting included officials from the National Association of Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (NAFDPIR), representatives from the Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) that administer FDPIR, and USDA staff (regional and health professionals were not at this meeting). The Work Group meets on an ongoing basis, usually via conference calls, to periodically review the FDPIR food package. Its goal is to consider revisions to the food package to better meet the nutritional needs and food preferences of program recipients without significantly increasing overall food package costs. The FDPIR Food Package Work Group website can be found here: http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/FoodPackageReview/fdpir_packagereview.htm.



New Online FDPIR Certification Training

FDPIR eligibility workers and their supervisors can now access FDPIR certification training online at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/fdpir_hhcert_training.htm. The training course is comprised of nine modules, designed to be taken in any order. Because the training is online, you can access the modules 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and revisit them at any time to refresh your

knowledge. We hope that the knowledge gained in this training will help you provide the best support possible for current and potential FDPIR participants.

Below is a list of the nine modules in the training course.

- Module 1: Applicant Choice to Participate in FDPIR or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Module 2: Household Composition
- Module 3: Application Processing, Interviews, and Verification
- Module 4: Financial and Non-Financial Eligibility Criteria
- Module 5: Eligibility Determinations and Assigning Certification Periods
- Module 6: Recertification, Change Reporting, and Notice of Adverse Action
- Module 7: Claims Against Households
- Module 8: Disqualifications
- Module 9: Fair Hearings

At the end of each module, is a short quiz you may take to test your knowledge of the key learning points covered in each module. When you finish all nine modules, you may test your knowledge of the entire training course by taking the post-test.

We would like to ensure that the training course meets your needs. Please provide us with your feedback by completing the course evaluation form. You can find a link to the evaluation form using the training course link.

Nutrition Education Grants

USDA will again be able to provide approximately \$1 million to ITOs to promote nutrition



education at the local level. Since 2008, these grants have been used to develop FDPIR nutrition lessons, gardens, fact sheets, and other culturally-relevant materials that enhance FDPIR participants' understanding of nutrition and ultimately foster life-long healthy lifestyle changes.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, 13 ITOs received nutrition education grants. For FY 2011, ITOs have submitted their proposals to USDA, and they are currently being evaluated. ITOs that received funding last year were able to use a renewal application to apply again this year for continued funding. USDA has worked to streamline and simplify the application and has encouraged all interested ITOs to apply. The grants will be awarded early next year.

For more information on the nutrition education grants, please visit: http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpi/fdpi_awards.htm.

Prospective Vendors

You may know of a local Native American meat or poultry producer who wishes to be a supplier for foods USDA makes available through FDPIR or its other food assistance programs. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) purchases meat and poultry, fish, fruits, vegetables, and egg products. These food purchases help stabilize prices

in agricultural markets by balancing supply and demand. For further information, the prospective vendor may visit the AMS homepage at www.ams.usda.gov, and then click on the "Commodity Purchasing" link on the left-hand side of the homepage. From there, the prospective vendor may click on the appropriate food item link (for example, "Poultry"), and obtain staff contact and other information in order to get started with the application process.

FDPIR Income Standards

How Does FNS Determine the FDPIR Income Standards for Eligibility?

The FDPIR net monthly income standard is the sum of the net monthly income standard and the standard deduction used in SNAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program). For example, below are the FY2011 SNAP net monthly income standard and standard deduction, and the FDPIR net monthly income standard for a 3-person household for the 48 contiguous United States:

Household Size	FY 2011 SNAP Net Monthly Income Standard		FY 2011 SNAP Standard Deduction		FY 2011 FDPIR Net Monthly Income Standard
3	\$1,526	+	\$142	=	\$1,668

The SNAP net monthly income standard is based on the **Federal Poverty Guidelines**. The Federal Poverty Guidelines are a federal poverty measure used by many federal programs to determine eligibility based on income. SNAP uses 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines as the basis for the net monthly income standards. Some federal programs use a percentage

multiple of the Federal Poverty Guidelines as the eligibility criterion (e.g., 125 percent, 185 percent), based on the program’s authorizing legislation or regulations.

The Federal Poverty Guidelines reflect annual income levels by household size. For example, the FY 2011 poverty guidelines reflect an annual income limit of \$18,310 for a 3-person household in the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia. Due to consumer price differences, separate Federal Poverty Guidelines are set for Alaska and Hawaii. Both the SNAP and FDPIR have separate net monthly income standards for Alaska.

Since the Federal Poverty Guidelines reflect annual income levels, USDA converts the annual income levels to monthly levels by dividing the Federal Poverty Guidelines by 12 and rounding up to the nearest whole dollar.

Household Size	FY 2011 Annual Federal Poverty Guideline	FY 2011 Monthly Federal Poverty Guideline: \$18,310 divided by 12
3	\$18,310	\$1,526

The SNAP standard deduction is 8.31 percent of the applicable SNAP net income limit by household size. The 2008 Farm Bill mandated annual inflationary adjustments to the SNAP standard deduction within set minimum and maximum levels. For the 48 contiguous United States, the FY 2011 SNAP standard deductions range, based on household size, from \$142 to \$205 in the 48 contiguous states and \$243 to \$256 in Alaska.

The Federal Poverty Guidelines are updated annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to account for changes

in the Consumer Price Index. The FDPIR and SNAP net monthly income standards are updated October 1st of each year based on the updated Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Why Didn’t the FDPIR Net Monthly Income Standards Change for FY 2011?

The FDPIR net monthly income standards are based on the SNAP net monthly income standards. SNAP’s net monthly income standard is equal to 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

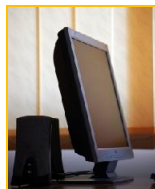
The Federal Poverty Guidelines are adjusted each year based on inflationary changes that are reflected in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In 2009, there was a decrease in the annual average CPI, which would have resulted in a reduction in the Federal Poverty Guidelines used to determine eligibility for federal programs in FY 2011. Legislation was enacted to prevent this because it would have caused many low-income families to lose eligibility for assistance under SNAP, FDPIR, and other federal programs. As a result, the FDPIR and SNAP net monthly income standards for FY 2011 reflect the same Federal Poverty Guidelines used in FY 2010.

You may have noticed that the FDPIR net monthly income standards for 1-person, 2-person, and 3-person households increased by \$1 for FDPIR programs in the 48 contiguous states. For FDPIR programs in Alaska, the net monthly income standards for certain sized households also changed slightly. This is due to a change in the SNAP standard deductions. The FDPIR net monthly income standards are equal to the sum of SNAP net monthly income standards **and** the SNAP standard deductions. Although the SNAP net monthly income

standards did not change in FY 2011 because Congress froze the Federal Poverty Guidelines, the SNAP standard deductions did change slightly for certain households.

Resources

FDPIR NutritionTalk Listserv



The FDPIR NutritionTalk Listserv is an email-based Internet tool that allows USDA and others interested in FDPIR nutrition education to interact with Tribes and address

Native American health and nutrition issues. In addition, ITOs, State agencies and their nutrition staff who subscribe to the Listserv can share experiences, ideas, resources, and innovative strategies that foster positive food and health behaviors among FDPIR recipients.

NutritionTalk is very simple to use. All you need is familiarity with email and an Internet connection. If you are not already a member, we encourage you to sign up.

- Follow this link to register:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/>.
- Click on “NutritionTalk Listserv” under “General Information.” Scroll about half way down the page to subscribe. Once you register, you will be able to share and receive information about FDPIR.

Sharing Gallery

USDA’s FNS is developing an online site, known as a ‘sharing gallery,’ where nutrition education and technical assistance materials for FDPIR recipients and best

nutrition education practices can be shared by ITOs and States. This database of materials will make it easier for FDPIR staff and participants to find and receive resources, innovative ideas, recipes, and other nutrition information. USDA expects the site to launch by January 2011.

Recipe Book

USDA is working to finalize a recipe book using USDA foods for FDPIR participants. The book, “A Harvest of Recipes Using USDA Foods” contains over 40 recipes and will be available in Spring 2011. Some of the recipes used in the book were submitted by FDPIR participants. Additional cookbooks and recipes can be found here:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/recipes/hp_cookbooks.htm.

FDPIR Fact Sheets

FNS has developed fact sheets that describe all USDA foods, and they provide information on packaging, storage, preparation, recipes, and nutrition information. The USDA’s Food Distribution Division has recently posted bottled juice fact sheets to the site.

Fact sheets are available here:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/programs/fdpir/cfs_fdpir.htm.

Web-Based Supply Chain Management

WBSCM is an initiative to replace the aging Processed Commodity Inventory Management System (PCIMS) and satellite systems including USDA’s Electronic Commodity Ordering System (ECOS).

WBSCM went live with the first release for Multi-Food Ordering in July 2010.

WBSCM Can Modify a Multi-Food Order

Using the old system (ECOS), ITOs and States were unable to modify an already submitted order. ECOS would instead create a new order, and the system would combine the two. In WBSCM, however, States and ITOs should modify orders instead of creating new ones. In WBSCM, users can amend an existing order.

ITOs and States should remember to modify existing orders rather than creating additional orders when ordering food for the same delivery date. Instructions were sent to the regional offices on November 29th and FNS staff is available to help all users accomplish this goal.

Food Safety Corner: Tracking Recalled Foods

If a food has been recalled, it is very important to make sure the product is not eaten. You need to track down the product, stop providing it to other people, and notify people who might have taken the product.

What information is helpful to track a recalled product?

1. Brand name
2. Manufacturer name
3. Quantity and date received
4. Box markings
5. Container codes
6. Lot numbers

What do you do if you have a recalled food?

1. Locate the product, label it "DO NOT USE," and place it in an area away from other products.
2. Count the product on hand (cases, cans, etc).
3. Do not give the product to anyone.
4. Report back how much product is on hand and its location and how much product was distributed or used.
5. Dispose of the product as instructed.

What do you do if some of the food has already been given out?

1. Contact people who might have received the product. For example, put up a sign or provide a handout.
2. Instruct people NOT to eat the product and to dispose of it.
3. Provide a phone number for people to call if they have questions.

The recall of one product does not mean that there are problems with all forms of that product. Check for product codes. Sometimes, recalls are expanded to include additional products or the same product produced on different dates.

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

In June 2010, several new fresh fruits and vegetables became available under FDPIR, bringing the total number of fresh produce options to 35. Some of the new products are available all year; others may only be available on a seasonal basis in your area.

The new foods are:

Fruits

- ❖ Avocado
- ❖ Cherries (seasonal)
- ❖ Grapes, seedless (seasonal)
- ❖ Honeydew melon (seasonal)
- ❖ Kiwi (seasonal)
- ❖ Nectarines (seasonal)
- ❖ Plums (seasonal)



Vegetables

- ❖ Asparagus (seasonal)
- ❖ Brussels sprouts
- ❖ Cauliflower
- ❖ Radishes
- ❖ Romaine lettuce



Guide and Substitution Rates

Substitution Rate

FDPIR households may substitute 1 pound of vegetable for 1 pound of fruit up to 4 pounds of fruit per person.

Guide Rates

FDPIR households may substitute 1 pound of fresh produce for 1 canned item, up to a total of 9 cans of fruit and 9 cans of vegetables per person. Some produce items are not pre-bagged, but are offered in bulk. The number of loose items equal to 1 can is listed below.

Fresh Produce Shopping List

<u>Vegetables</u>	<u>Equal to 1 can</u>	<u>Fruits</u>	<u>Equal to 1 can</u>
Carrots	8 medium	Apples	3 medium
Baby Carrots	--	Avocado	2 medium
Yellow Onions	4 medium	Grapefruit	2 medium
Red Onions	4 medium	Oranges	3 medium
Russet Potatoes	2 medium	Pears	3 medium
Red Potatoes	3 medium	Mixed Fruit	--
Winter Squash	1 medium		
Summer Squash	2 medium	<u>Seasonal:</u>	
Sweet Potatoes	2 medium	Peaches	3 medium
Turnips	3 medium	Cherries	--
Cabbage	1 medium	Seedless Grapes	--
Celery	1 medium bunch	Honey Dew Melon	½ medium
Mixed Vegetables	--	Kiwi	6 medium
Brussel Sprouts	--	Nectarines	3 medium
Cauliflower	1 medium (2 small)	Plums	6 medium
Romaine Lettuce	1 bunch		
Radishes	--		

Send us your comments! Please let us know if there are any USDA food-related issues that you would like us to address in future editions of this newsletter.

This newsletter has been prepared by the Food Distribution Division and the Food Safety Unit of the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service in Alexandria, VA.

If you have any questions or comments on our products or services, please email the Food and Nutrition Service, Food Distribution Division, Program Support Branch directly at fdd-psb@fns.usda.gov.

You may also write to the Food Distribution Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 508, Alexandria, VA, 22302.

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