

Minutes

Work Group members in attendance: FDPIR Program Staff: Roxanna Newsom (NAFDPIR President), Jaime Prouty-Nolan (NAFDPIR Treasurer), Gregory Nothstine (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian); Tod Robertson (SWR VP), Connie Martinez, Sharon Wheeler (SWR); Jenelle Gimlin (WR VP), Lorraine Davis, Desiree Bergeron (WR); Mary Greene-Trottier (MPR VP), Charles “Red” Gates, Kathy Walters (MPR); Susie Roy (MWR VP), Betty Jo Graveen, Chyrle LaDuke (MWR); Melissa Baker (FNS WRO); Sara Hernandez (AMS), Lena Milton (FSA), Laura Walter, Patti Schock, Stephanie Cooks, (FNS).

Work Group members not at the meeting: Florence Calabaza (NAFDPIR Secretary), Shari Bebeau (MWR), Kathy Sweitzer (FNS MPRO), Samia Hamdan (FNS MWR), Lou Hankins (FNS SWRO).

Visitors: Audrey Rowe (FNS Administrator), Tim O’Connor (SNP Deputy Administrator), Laura Castro (FDD Director), Shirley Roberts (Chief, FDD Household Operations), Dana Rasmussen(Chief, FDD Policy), Matthew Martin (FDD), Barbara Lopez (FDD), David Tuckwiller (AMS), Sharon Hadder (FSA), Brad Hoppe (FSA), Akua White (FDD), Emily Buday (FDD), Amy Frady (FDD).

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Laura Castro opened the meeting. Workgroup members and staff introduced themselves. Audrey Rowe and Tim O’Connor welcomed the group and discussed Agency and workgroup priorities for Fiscal Year 2013 and ways to stretch the FDPIR food package. Workgroup members discussed a possible training session on the regulatory process either at the 2013 NAFDPIR national meeting or as a webinar.
- b. Florence Calabaza (NAFDPIR Secretary) has resigned from the NAFDPIR Board and selection of a new secretary is pending. Sharon Wheeler (Chickasaw Nation) replaces Nanelle Micco as the ITO nutrition/health expert for the SWR.

II. USDA Foods Updates

a. Wish List Status –

- i. Butter - the solicitation for butter went out on November 14, 2012. Workgroup members received draft guide rates for reintroducing butter to the FDPIR food package.
- ii. Lite Spam – sodium levels for commercial lite Spam exceed target levels for FDPIR. A suitable product is not available commercially.
- iii. Fruit & Nut mix – fruit & nut mix was added to the food package in FY 2012.
- iv. Frozen pork chops and Alaskan Pollock filets – the workgroup sampled both products and provided favorable sensory feedback. FNS will confirm other package options and product nutritional information for the pork chops (sodium). The Workgroup requested assistance putting together a food item survey to determine participant interest/ordering quantities for both products. ACTION ITEM: 1) FNS provided input and NAFDPIR issued the survey on November 19, 2012 with responses due December 3, 2012 .

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- 2) AMS and FNS will move forward to draft product specifications by 12/15/2012.
 - v. Tanka bars – Tanka bars may be an option for the Regional vendor pilot. Mountain Plains, Southwest Regions, and some ITOs from Western Region expressed interest in this product.
 - vi. Wild rice – wild rice may be an option for the Regional vendor pilot. ITOs in Midwest Region and about half the ITOs in Mountain Plains Region expressed interest in this product.
 - vii. V8 juice – as a replacement for tomato juice ACTION ITEM: FNS will research commercially available low sodium vegetable juice.
 - viii. Almonds – are incorporated as part of fruit/nut mix.
 - ix. Blue cornmeal- FSA received information from one vendor that can provide blue corn meal in 1 lb or 3 lb. package sizes. A summary response to FSA's November sources sought notice is attached.
 - x. Frozen fruit & vegetables – freezer space remains an issue for including additional frozen items in the food package. Selected options for frozen fruits and vegetables include a berry mix and California blend. ACTION ITEM: NAFDPIR will poll remaining program directors for freezer capacity prior to FNS researching these products.
- b. Other USDA Foods of Interest –**
- i. **Quick cooking white rice** - is preferred as a convenience item over the current enriched white rice FDPIR receives. FSA will research the availability of quick cooking white rice and provide an update at the January 2013 meeting.
 - ii. **White hominy** – FDPIR participants prefer to receive white hominy instead of the yellow hominy they currently receive. AMS will research availability of white hominy and provide an update at the January 2013 meeting.
 - iii. **Whole grain tortillas (dry or frozen)**
 - iv. **Frozen whole grain waffles/pancakes**
 - v. **Canola oil** – possible alternative to the vegetable oil
 - vi. **Mini crackers** – group requested mini crackers be added to the food package on an alternating basis (6 months) with regular unsalted top crackers.
- c. Canned salmon** – product contains disproportionate amount of dark skin and bones and is not acceptable. Workgroup would like AMS and FNS to revisit the product specifications. ACTION ITEM: FNS will obtain more specific information regarding the product complaints, review specification, and update at the next workgroup call.
- d. Sweet potatoes** – FNS noted the current vendor for canned sweet potatoes will likely be terminated due to poor product quality.
- e. Bison/buffalo** – AMS issued a sources sought notice to identify vendors that can meet supply and technical requirements for this product. Two vendors responded. AMS is reviewing technical and contractor proposals.
- f. Product labels** – Hart has redesigned their commercial label to include colorful product images. The workgroup liked the added color however, would prefer the

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new label have fewer black borders. Tribes have also complained about a canned peach product with an orange and black label.

- g. DoD Fresh cherry and grape tomatoes** – FNS will work with DoD to add these to the catalog for the next growing season. FNS will send an email when this is done. ACTION ITEM: These products are available for ordering as of December 12, 2012.
- h. Egg products** – there is currently only one vendor for the egg mix product. There is concern that the ESL eggs in a 16 oz. carton is too large and would result in waste. Members requested FNS revisit shell eggs with DLA. Shell eggs may be an option in the regional vendor pilot. ACTION ITEM: FNS will contact DLA and update at next workgroup call.
- i. DoD Fresh produce** –Arizona/Navajo reported customer service issues with DoD Fresh delivery personnel. Tribes in New Mexico reported challenges with poor quality fruits, produce packages indicating Mexican origin, incorrect labels, and product substitutions without prior notice. Navajo asked if different vendors service Arizona and New Mexico due to variations in the produce each state receives. Leech Lake also reported poor quality DoD Fresh produce was received from a Minneapolis vendor. ACTION ITEM: FNS will discuss quality/service issues with DLA and provide an update at next workgroup call.

III. Inventory Management and Review – Household Operations Branch provided a warehouse update consisting of: (1) warehouse inventory reporting, (2) trends and pending issues of supply, (3) supply alerts to Regions and ITOs, and (4) managing new foods distribution.

- **FDPIR Regional Vendor Pilot** - There is a protest to award of the FDPIR regional vendor pilot. The FNS contracting office is working to resolve this issue. Specific information is not available at this time due to the confidential nature of the process.

IV. FDPIR Procurement and Market Review – AMS provided a comprehensive overview of the USDA procurement process including product development, commodity procurement requirements, the procurement process, procurement methods, and procurement challenges.

V. FDPIR Nutrition Education Update – Akua White distributed a final proof of the new FDPIR cookbook, *A Harvest of Recipes with USDA Foods*. FNS plans to provide books in three-ring binders, if costs permit, and will request print ready CDs of the book for later use. Once completed, the cookbook will be available on the FDPIR Sharing Gallery and the FNS FDPIR website. The cookbook was very well received. Workgroup members asked if participants could receive herbs/spices with the cookbook since spices are costly and not readily available to all tribes. FNS will check to see if funding is available for a one-time herbs/spices purchase.

VI. FDPIR Communications/Marketing Project – Emily Buday, FNS project lead, expressed her commitment to work closely and collaboratively with the group. Emily and Roxanna Newsom will coordinate a meeting with NAFDPIR's Marketing Committee, focusing on the 18 to 35 year old demographic as the primary audience for marketing and research. The group suggested connecting with *Native American Calling*, a popular radio station in Indian Country. The audience for the project is non-participating FDPIR eligibles and SNAP participants

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eligible for FDPIR. Project deliverables include a brochure, poster, banner, PSAs, and online toolkit. The brochure, banner, and poster will be available in print, online to download, and online in customizable format. The workgroup requested the online toolkit include downloadable and customizable resources and tools. Members expressed interest in media templates to respond to negative network media coverage of FDPIR. Roxanna Newsom will provide a calendar of events to help coordinate USDA photographer support for the project's onsite photo shoot. NAFDPIR Board members requested a Communications Project update be provided at the June 2013 NAFDPIR annual meeting in Denver, CO.

VII. Meeting Adjourned