

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Food Package Review Work Group

February 12, 2018

Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Food Package Review Work Group

Meeting Dates: February 12, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Voting Members

Brandon Bristol (MWR Nutritionist)		Joe Van Alstine (MWR VP)	
Carmen Robertson (SWR Nutritionist)	x	Julie Skolmowski (HQ FNS Nutritionist)	x
Charles "Red" Gates (MPR)	x	Lorraine Davis (WR)	x
Connie Martinez (SWR)		Mara Yborra (MPR Nutritionist)	x
Desiree Jackson (WR Nutritionist)		Marisa Fuller (NAFDPIR Secretary)	
Fi Davis (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian)	x	Mary Greene-Trottier (MPR VP)	x
Gloria Goodwin (MWR)	x	Perry Martinez (SWR VP)	x
Graydon Yatabe (CDC Nutritionist)	x	Ray Capoeman (WR VP)	x
Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer)		Tod Robertson (NAFDPIR President)	x

Non-Voting Members

Support Staff

Barbara Lopez (HQ FNS)	x	Blair Tucker-Gruchala (HQ FNS)	x
Holly Prestegaard (WR FNS)		Christina Riley	x
Jessica Creed-Capsel (MPR FNS)		Hunjin Lee (HQ FNS)	x
Matthew Martin (HQ FNS)	x	Sam Hunley (HQ FNS)	x
Richard Burley (SWR FNS)			
Samia Hamdan (MWR FNS)			

Discussion Items

I. USDA Foods Update

a. Traditional Foods

- The second fair share offering of wild salmon for this year will be released in February 2018. FNS will be working on a third fair share offering of wild salmon for a spring (tentative) distribution.
- FNS is also preparing for a wild rice fair share offering during February 2018. Information will be shared through the FNS Regional Offices.
- Catfish was previously voted on as the next traditional food offering for FDPIR. FNS is working with its procurement partner, the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS), to procure catfish. AMS has issued a pre-solicitation notice to notify potential vendors of the intent to purchase this product. Orders for catfish are due

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Food Package Review Work Group

February 12, 2018

to AMS in late April of this year. Delivery dates for the catfish will be reviewed once a successful award is made.

- Work Group members discussed bison since it has been added as a regular item in the meat category starting October 1, 2017. Currently, there is a limit on bison to 1 unit (2 lbs. of bison) per person per month. FNS is monitoring bison trends to assess its take rate as a regular item and will reassess distribution rates after a year of implementation.
- b. Bakery Mix – Beginning March 1, 2018, bakery mix in a 20 oz. bag will be available for ordering in the catalog. The smaller pack size product will replace the 5 lb. bag. As a result, bakery mix in a 20 oz. bag will have a distribution rate of 1 unit (e.g., 20 oz.) per person per month with no skipping of months. Information, including required updates to the Automated Inventory System (AIS) and a revised Guide Rate, will be shared through the FNS Regional Offices.
- c. Applesauce – Also beginning March 1, 2018, applesauce will be available in a 6-cup sleeve for ordering in the catalog. This product replaces the canned applesauce (15.5 oz). Information will also be shared through the FNS Regional Offices.

I. Options for Category Consolidation

- a. The nutrition subcommittee, which is comprised of all the nutritionists on the Food Package Review Work Group, have been meeting to discuss the FY 2018 strategic goal of potentially reducing grains in the food package while increasing vegetable rates. During this meeting, the subcommittee presented the following for discussion:
 - Consolidation of the flour/cornmeal category and the bakery mix category into one category. This option would give participants more flexibility in choosing products within these two categories while making a modest downward adjustment to the guide rate. This option would be paired with increasing the vegetable guide rate by 1 additional unit.
 - Consolidation of the pasta/rice category and the tortilla/crackers category into one category. Similarly, this option would also give participants greater flexibility in product selection and slightly reduces the guide rate among grain options. This option would also be paired with increasing the vegetable guide rate by another additional unit.
- b. Work Group members agreed to further review and continue the discussion at the next Food Package Review Work Group meeting.

II. New USDA Foods to FDPIR

- a. Work Group members discuss the addition of frozen blueberries, frozen carrots, and frozen peas in the food package. All three products are available in a 2 ½ lb. bag and were taste-tested during the November face-to-face meeting with favorable results.
- b. Work Group members discussed potential freezer space issues across FDPIR programs and shared some concerns, but noted that this would be a welcome addition. FNS would also work with programs to address freezer capacity issues.
- c. Work Group members discussed the distribution guide rate for the frozen products. The 2 ½ lb. bag is equivalent to 3 units based on both the number of servings in the



Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Food Package Review Work Group

February 12, 2018

- package and the relative cost-comparison. For example, the frozen blueberries have approximately 15 ½ cup serving per package which is many more servings than a 15.5 oz. can (3 servings).
- d. Work Group members voted to add the three frozen items with a distribution rate of 3 units each into the food package. The products will be introduced one at a time starting with the blueberries, then the carrots, and last the peas. See Attachment A – Voting Tally Results – 2018 Frozen Products.
- III. New Business
- a. Oats – Work Group members discussed the difference between cut oats and steel oats.
 - b. Lactose Alternatives – Work Group members discussed interest in potential alternatives to cow’s milk for participants who are lactose intolerant.
 - c. New items of interest were added to a list for further review during the annual strategic work group meeting scheduled in the fall of each year.

II. Meeting Adjourned

Summary of Action Items

1. ACTION ITEM: FNS will continue to work on the identified priority list of USDA Foods and provide updates at work group meetings.
2. ACTION ITEM: Work Group members will continue to review options presented by the Nutrition Subcommittee.
3. ACTION ITEM: FNS will provide meeting dates for the next FDPIR Food Package.