



## Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Food Package Review Work Group

April 16, 2019

### Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Food Package Review Work Group

Meeting Dates: April 16, 2019

### Meeting Minutes

#### Attendance

##### **Voting Members**

Benita Lewis (WR VP)		Joe Van Alstine (MWR VP)	x
Charles "Red" Gates (MPR)	x	Julie Skolmowski (HQ FNS Nutritionist)	x
Connie Black (SWR Nutritionist)	x	Lorraine Davis (WR)	x
Connie Martinez (SWR)	x	Mara Yborra (MPR Nutritionist)	
Darren Webb (MWR)		Marisa Fuller (NAFDPIR Secretary)	
Fi Davis (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian)	x	Mary Greene-Trottier (NAFDPIR President)	
Graydon Yatabe (CDC Nutritionist)	x	Scott Kruger (MWR Nutritionist)	x
Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer)	x	TBD (WR Nutritionist)	
Jerry Tonubbee (SW VP)			

##### **Non-Voting Members**

##### **Support Staff**

Barbara Lopez (HQ FNS)	x	Blair Tucker-Gruchala	x
Katie Clifford (WR FNS)	x	Carolyn Smalkowski	x
Katrina Westphal (MPR FNS)	x	Christina Riley	x
Richard Burley (SWR FNS)	x	Hunjin Lee	x
Samia Hamdan (MWR FNS)		Janell Walker	x
		Janice Fitzgerald	x
		Linda Munday	x
		Matthew Martin	x

#### Discussion Items

##### **I. New Members - Welcome**

- a. The following new members were welcomed to the Work Group:
  - Connie Black, representing Southwest/Southeast Region as a nutritionist.
  - Scott Kruger, representing Midwest Region as a nutritionist.

##### **II. USDA Foods Updates**

- a. Frozen Blueberries – As of March 1, 2019, frozen blueberries, were made available for ordering as a new item in the FDPIR food package. The product comes in a 2 ½ lb.

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- frozen bag and counts as 3 units in the fruit category. A fact sheet was also provided to FDPIR administering agencies.
- Work Group members shared that the frozen blueberries are very well received by participants.
- b. Dried Cranberries – Dried cranberries were also made available starting March 1, 2019. The product, which is part of the fruit category, is made available to all FDPIR participants as an additional item to the guide rate and does not count against the maximum take-rate per person.
- Dried cranberries come 300 packets to a case. The fair-share distribution of 1 unit per person requires the bundling of 10 packets of dried cranberries to create 1 unit.
  - Work Group members shared that the dried cranberries are also very well received by participants and raised a question of they will become a permanent item. Per previous discussion with the Work Group, dried cranberries are being sampled for favorability and possible inclusion in the food package by replacing another dried fruit item, such as the dried plums.
  - Work Group members will be discussing dried fruit options in follow-up food package meetings.
- c. Boneless, Skinless Chicken – A boneless, skinless chicken has been ordered and scheduled to arrive in the national warehouse in April/May time-frame. The product will replace the existing split-breast chicken offered.
- Whole-bagged chicken and now boneless, skinless chicken will continue to be offered on the quarter-on, quarter-off schedule.
- d. Trade Mitigation Program – FNS continues to work on providing Trade Mitigation Program foods for FDPIR. These foods are part of the USDA’s effort to purchase up to \$1.2 billion of food to support producers impacted by retaliatory tariffs against the United States.
- Products for FDPIR will be foods that are not currently in the food package to give participants additional variety.
  - FNS is currently looking at offering frozen pulled-pork and frozen whole strawberries this summer under the Trade Mitigation Program.
- e. Bison – Bison is available at the national warehouses. Additional purchases of bison have also been made to ensure more consistent availability of the product at both warehouses.
- f. Wild Salmon – Wild salmon is currently being offered to all participants under a fair-share distribution. The wild salmon ships 40/1 lb. units per case. The fair-share distribution runs through April 30, 2019.
- g. Catfish – Catfish will be offered next as a fair-share distribution after the wild salmon is completed. Estimated time-frame is in May/June 2019.
- h. Wild Rice – FNS continues to procure wild rice, but has encountered limited availability. Unfortunately, not enough wild rice is available to purchase to meet national participation levels in FDPIR. Currently, FNS has about 20,000 lbs. of wild rice.

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- Work Group members agreed to a fair-share distribution to the Midwest Region only as a one-time option until FNS can purchase more wild rice to meet national participation levels.
- i. Lamb – Lamb was selected as the next traditional food to research as mutton is not a feasible product for USDA to purchase. FNS is currently looking at two lamb options, a shoulder roast and a leg roast. Both products have been purchased by USDA in the past. More information will be provided to the Work Group members in follow-up meetings.

### III. USDA DoD Fresh Program

- a. Shell Egg Pilot – FNS is continuing the expansion of the Shell Egg pilot by working with the FNS Regions to identify ITOs interested in participating. Once interest is confirmed by the select ITOs, they will be announced at NAFDPIR.
- b. Hatch Green Chilies – During the November food package meeting, hatch green chilies were mentioned as fresh item to be considered as an additional item. Upon further research, FNS found there is limited availability of this seasonal item and the volume is not available to meet national demand. At this time, this item would not be considered for inclusion in the food package.

### IV. USDA DoD Fresh Complaint Process

- a. Documentation continues to be needed in order to address any complaint issues. Each time there is an issue with a vendor, it needs to be documented and reported to the vendor, the DLA representative and to the corresponding FNS Regional Office.
- b. If the vendor does not promptly address the issue or the issues continue, the complaints should be reported to, [USDADoDFresh@usda.gov](mailto:USDADoDFresh@usda.gov).
- c. FNS will work with DLA to ensure that the vendor addresses all complaints.

### V. Nutrition Subcommittee

- a. The FDPIR Nutrition Sub-Committee has been meeting regularly since last November. The sub-committee consists of the regional nutritionist, the regional office staff, and the 2 federal nutritionists on the Work Group. WAFDPIR is very close to filling the opening for the WR nutritionist.
- b. Sub-Committee goals include making recommendations to consolidate the egg category and identifying an optimal guide rate for fruits and vegetables.
- c. The sub-committee has been discussing the consolidation of the egg category and reviewing the nutritional aspects of different categories on the guide rate to make a recommendation to help expand shell eggs to all ITOs and eliminate dried egg mix. This information will be reviewed internally at FNS and then discussed with the Work Group later in 2019.
- d. Additionally, the sub-committee is informally gathering feedback regarding the most recent changes to the guide rate, specifically how well the new fruit and juice category



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is being accepted to aid in the discussion on identifying an optimal guide rate for fruits and vegetables.

### **VI. Meeting Adjourned**