



Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

Food Package Review Work Group

November 19-20, 2019

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Food Package Review Work Group

Meeting Dates: November 19 - 20, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Voting Members

Benita Lewis (WR VP) (AC Sanchez)	x	Jerry Tonubbee (SW VP) (Roxanna Newsom)	x
Blake Garrison (MPR)	x	Joe Van Alstine (MWR VP)	x
Charles "Red" Gates (MPR VP)		Julie Skolmowski (HQ FNS Nutritionist)	x
Connie Black (SWR Nutritionist)	x	Lorraine Davis (WR)	
Connie Martinez (SWR)	x	Mara Yborra (MPR Nutritionist)	x
Gloria Goodwin (MWR)	x	Marisa Fuller (NAFDPIR Secretary)	x
Graydon Yatabe (CDC Nutritionist)	x	Mary Greene-Trottier (NAFDPIR President)	x
Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer)	x	Rex Hailey (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian)	x
TBD (WR Nutritionist)		Scott Kruger (MWR Nutritionist)	

Non-Voting Members

Support Staff

Barbara Lopez (HQ FNS)	x	Blair Tucker-Gruchala	x
Katie Clifford (WR FNS)	x	Christina Riley	x
Katrina Westphal (MPR FNS)	x	Erica Antonson	x
Richard Burley (SWR FNS)	x	Janell Walker	x
Samia Hamdan (MWR FNS)	x	Hunjin Lee	x
		Kathy Staley	x
		Linda Munday	x
		Matthew Martin	x
		Shenique Bridges	x

Discussion Items

I. Introductions & Welcome

- a. Work Group welcomed all members and guests. Two presentations were shared with the Work Group: a Youth Presentation from NAFDPIR Youth's Ambassador and a second on the Tribal Food Sovereignty Advancement Initiative from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

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II. USDA Foods Updates

- a. **Traditional Foods:** A summary of the existing five traditional foods currently in the FDPIR food package was provided, which include bison, blue cornmeal, wild salmon, wild rice, and catfish.
 - **Walleye Market Research:** FNS discussed the market research shared from the Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) on walleye. The research conducted showed limited commercial fishing and availability of walleye in the Great Lakes with most commercially available walleye in the United States as being imported from Canada. Work Group members shared additional opportunities to explore Tribal fisheries. Work Group members also requested for the research to be expanded to other fish available in the Great Lakes, such as lake trout and whitefish.
 - **Wild Rice:** Work Group members reviewed the existing specification for wild rice procurement and discussed the option to revise the specification to potentially allow for a larger volume of wild rice to be purchased in the future. Currently, AMS has two vendors for wild rice but encounter challenges with being able to procure enough product for a full wild rice distribution to all FDPIR participants. FNS will share any additional information from AMS on limiting factors in the specification for Work Group consideration.
 - **Bison:** Work Group members discussed the pack size of the existing bison meat which is 2 lbs., and shared how the pack size may be a factor in participants not taking the product. FNS shared that the next procurement of bison is a 1 lb. product and agreed to continue to monitor bison to see if the change in pack size increases distribution rates.
 - **Lamb:** FNS shared how the solicitation to purchase lamb was unsuccessful. No bids were received. FNS will be meeting again with AMS to discuss additional options.
- b. Work Group members reviewed an on-going list of USDA Foods that are part of FY 2020 activities. Specific discussion included:
 - **Dried Cranberries:** Product is under review as the last fair share is underway. Discussion will continue to determine if Work Group would like to consider replacing the dried plums with the dried cranberries.
 - **Frozen Peas:** Work Group members discussed the size of the frozen peas (2.5 lbs.) and distribution guide rate at 3 units. A concern was shared that 3 units is high. FNS provided information on the equivalency of 3 units based on the number of servings.
 - **Shell Eggs:** Expansion continues as more FDPIR programs will join the pilot and receive shell eggs instead of dried egg mix in FY 2020. Work Group members requested a consideration to offer both shell eggs and dried egg mix. See IV. Nutrition Sub-Committee below for additional information.
 - **Holiday Ham:** FNS shared that the holiday ham will be received in the national warehouse in December 2020. A fair share distribution will then be released.

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- **Cream of Chicken Soup:** FNS shared that it is working on finalizing the new specification for cream of chicken soup which will be for a canned, condensed product.
 - **Beans:** FNS shared that the refried beans had a small reformulation change which resulted in the vendor changing the product label to include the word “spicy”, which was not intended.
 - **Frozen Pulled Pork:** FNS shared that it anticipates a fair share distribution of frozen pulled pork under trade mitigation.
 - **Frozen Whole Strawberries:** FNS shared that it also anticipates a fair share distribution of the strawberries under trade mitigation.
- c. **List of New Foods for Consideration:** Work Group members requested to review a list of foods for future consideration. Members agreed for the Nutrition Sub-Committee to review the list and offer feedback. The list includes the following products:
- Fruit cups – to replace selected can items (e.g., peaches)
 - Cream of chicken soup
 - Tomato soup
 - Steel-cut oats
 - Lima beans
 - Frozen green chilies
 - Dry sweet corn
 - Popcorn
 - Tanka bars
 - Berries (e.g., blackberries, huckleberries)
 - Walleye
 - Different types of cooking oils
 - Unsalted butter
 - Tuna in pouches
 - Honey
 - New fruit/frozen fruit
 - Frozen vegetables
 - Pecans
 - Pulled-pork
 - Strawberries
 - Brown rice
 - Maple sugar
 - Canned syrup

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III. FDPIR Guide Rate

- a. **Guide Rate Review:** Work Group members reviewed the upcoming guide rate changes coming in the next release of the Automated Inventory System (AIS), which is now scheduled for January 1, 2020. The changes include:
 - consolidating the bakery mix category and the flour/cornmeal category into one category;
 - adding an additional unit to the vegetable maximum guide rate for a total of 12 units; and
 - adding frozen peas (2.5 lb. bag = 3 units) as a vegetable option.
- b. **Hot and Cold Cereals:** Work Group members reviewed the hot cereal and cold cereal categories and voted to consolidate these two categories into one category. The consolidated category will have a maximum guide rate of 2 units. FNS will review and confirm a time-line for implementation after March 2020. See Attachment A – Voting Tally Results – Cereals for results.
- c. **Nonfat Dry Milk:** Work Group discussed the maximum guide rate distribution of the milk category and shared existing guide rate distribution for the nonfat dry milk. Currently, two 12.8 oz. nonfat dry milks count together and make up 8 units. Splitting the nonfat dry milk to issue only one 12.8 oz. package as 4 units is not an approved distribution. Work Group members requested a guide rate change to allow for the distribution of one nonfat dry milk to count as 4 units and providing the option for participants to select 4 units in either evaporated milk and/or UHT milk. This request is under consideration.

IV. Nutrition Sub-Committee

- a. **Egg Category:** The FDPIR Nutrition Sub-Committee presented their recommendation to consolidate the egg category and support expanding shell eggs to all ITOs while eliminating dried egg mix. The dried egg mix will need to be eliminated due to decrease demand and associated costs with maintaining the product. The recommendation is as follows:
 - Combine the egg, bean, and peanut butter categories
 - Allow participants to take up to 6 units of eggs, beans, and peanut butter per person per month in the newly consolidated category
 - Establish a maximum issuance of 1 dozen shell eggs (1 dozen equals 1 unit) per person per month. Work Group members requested for either the limit on shell eggs to be removed, or to increase the limit.
 - Move the fruit and nut mix to the fruit category

V. FDPIR Paraprofessional Project

- a. FNS awarded the cooperative agreement to the Oklahoma Tribal Engagement Partners (OKTEP) to plan, develop, design, promote, implement, and evaluate a multi-component training initiative for FDPIR local agency staff.

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- b. Project timeline: **September 2019 – September 2020:** OKTEP will develop the training curriculum and will recruit a volunteer review panel to ensure cultural relevance and ecological validity are addressed. Training curriculum will focus on: Food safety and storing foods safely, knife skills, label reading, basic meal preparation, menu planning and meal preparation using FDPIR foods, and nutrition quality of FDPIR foods. **October 2020 – September 2021:** OKTEP will conduct four in-person trainings at different locations. Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, and Dallas have tentatively been identified as the host sites, but these locations have **not** been finalized. The goal is to host the first training (pilot session) in October 2020 and the subsequent trainings between March 2021 and August 2021.

VI. USDA DoD Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

- a. **Defense Logistics Agency (DLA):** FNS and DLA have had a successful, twenty-five-year collaborative partnership where DLA procures fresh fruits and vegetables delivered to schools and to FDPIR programs for the USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. This partnership leverages DLA's procurement resources which provide supplies to military bases throughout the United States and all over the world, including fresh produce. FNS provided more information on the roles and responsibilities of DLA, the produce distributors/vendors, and FDPIR programs.
- b. **Reporting Feedback:** In order for DLA to take action with a vendor not adhering to contract requirements, DLA contracting officers needs documentation of any issue. Anytime there is an issue with produce quality and condition, availability or delivery, FDPIR programs must document the issue and report the issue to the Produce Vendor, the DLA representative, and the FNS Regional Office. If the vendor does not address the issue or if the issue continues, report it with documentation to USDADoDFresh@usda.gov.

VII. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) & FDPIR

- a. A presentation was provided by the CDC on how CDC may be able to collaborate with FDPIR programs. Additional information may be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/state-local-programs/hop-1809/high-obesity-program-1809.html> and https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/activepeoplehealthynation/pdf/About-Active-People_factsheet_Oct2019_508.pdf.

VIII. 2018 Farm Bill

- a. Work Group members reviewed the statutory language included in the 2018 Farm Bill authorizing a demonstration project for one or more Tribal Organization(s) within the FDPIR to enter into self-determination contracts to procure foods to supplant FDPIR foods purchased by USDA for their Indian Tribe. This provision requires Congressional appropriations to be implemented.



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IX. FY2020 Work Group Schedule

- a. Work Group members discussed alternatives to its existing meeting schedule and specifically discussed opportunities to change the annual strategic meeting from November to either March or August. This change may allow for more flexibilities to host the meeting outside of the Washington, D.C. areas. FNS will propose several schedule options for further Work Group consideration.

X. Meeting Adjourned