

NUPC Database
&
Creating the APL

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The Contract was awarded July 24th!

- KLC Network Services as Prime
- Novo Dia Group as Subcontractor
- AcuSys as a Subcontractor
- Contract Kickoff Meeting is tentatively set for August 28th.

NUPC Tasks 1 & 2

- Task 1 focuses on expanding the number of data elements held in the database and creating a user friendly interface
 - Capture everything found on the package
 - Ingredients, Nutrition Facts, Allergy Info, Special Processing
 - Interface will be automated and interactive
 - Includes a public facing version of the database
- Task 2 focuses on populating the database with complete and accurate data in a consistent format
 - National Level Data and State Specific Data
 - Single point of data entry
 - Items will be screened against Federal eligibility criteria
 - Mechanics of adding products is TBD

NUPC Tasks 1 & 2

- FNS is depending on SA's for input during the design phase
 - Steve.porter@usda.gov
- SA's will be asked to provide a brief description of individual products they would like included in the database
 - Initial load will come from existing APL's
 - Data Integrity contractor will gather the data

Creating an APL in preparation for EBT

**2012 WIC EBT User Group
Meeting**

August 21, 2012

NUPC Update

- Update on system development effort
 - Current APL Status and Format
 - Decisions along the way
- VA APL Capture Tools
 - APL Central

Update on development efforts



Getting Started

- WIC Universal Interface Document
- WIC EBT Technical Implementation Guide
- WIC EBT Operating Rules
- National Food Category-SubCategory Table
- Can be found @
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/ebt/operatingrules-implemguide.htm>

VA APL Status

- VA EBT will be an Online solution.
- 7,200 UPCs Collected.
- Stored in an Excel file currently.
- VA UPC capture application will export APL file in necessary format to NUPC.
- Compiled via contact with Grocery, Distributor, and Manufacturer reps.
- Ongoing store visits.

Decisions Along the Way



PLU Mapping Basics

- What is a PLU?
- PLU stands for price look-up code. PLUs are used on items that are sold loose or bunched, by weight or by each (i.e. an individual apple or bunch of greens). A PLU code contains 4-5 digits total. When constructing State APLs, PLU management solutions must be determined.

Price Look Up (PLU) Mapping

- What is PLU Mapping?
 - PLU Mapping is the matching of a WIC vendor's product identification number the vendor uses to the associated PLU for that product in the APL
 - PLU Mapping is used to allow participants to use their Cash Value Benefit (CVB) on fruits and vegetables
- What can be Mapped to APL PLUs?
 - Approved store specific UPC and PLUs for fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables
- Where do the PLUs in the APL come from?
 - The APL uses the International Federation of Produce Standards (IFPS) PLUs



Types of Mapping

- Full Mapping
 - The matching of vendor used product numbers on a one-to-one basis to the list of fresh fruits and vegetables on the APL.
 - Store specific UPCs are mapped to the IFPS PLU on the APL that directly corresponds with the fresh fruit or vegetable being sold under the UPC.
- Partial Mapping
 - The matching of vendor used product number on a many-to-one basis to the FNS designated Cash Value Benefit (CVB) PLU 4469 on the APL.
 - All store specific UPCs and all PLUs for fruits and vegetables would be mapped to PLU 4469.



How it Works (integrated)

➤ Full Mapping

An approved PLU or UPC for fruits and/or vegetables is entered

The cash register uses the store PLU/UPC to generate the item price

The PLU mapped to the PLU/UPC being purchased is sent to EPPIC for approval

➤ Partial Mapping

An approved PLU or UPC for fruits and/or vegetables is entered

The cash register uses the store PLU/UPC to generate the item price

The FNS designated CVB PLU 4469 is sent to EPPIC for approval



A **xerox** Company

Pro and Cons

➤ Full Mapping

➤ Pros

- Specific reporting to VA WIC the specific items purchased
- Tighter control over APL items

➤ Cons

- More work to ensure all fruits and vegetables are added to APL
- Higher likelihood of items being rejected because they are not yet on APL

➤ Partial Mapping

➤ Pros

- Mapping all fresh, frozen, and canned fruits and vegetables to a single PLU requires less effort
- Fewer rejections since all approved items use same PLU

➤ Cons

- Poor back end reporting for VA WIC

VA Mapping Solution

- Partial Mapping
 - Chosen due to greater flexibility provided to retailers.
 - More flexibility of EBT system (less rejections).
 - Allows participants more choice as well.
 - Greater availability of seasonal fruits and vegetables to participants.



VA APL CAPTURE TOOLS

VA APL Central

- iOS Application
 - Captures UPCs via autofocus camera or by manual entry.
 - Allows for entry of product details (UOM, Size, Category, Sub Category, etc).
- APL File Generator
 - Produces D4 or D6 records.
 - NUPC Compatible.

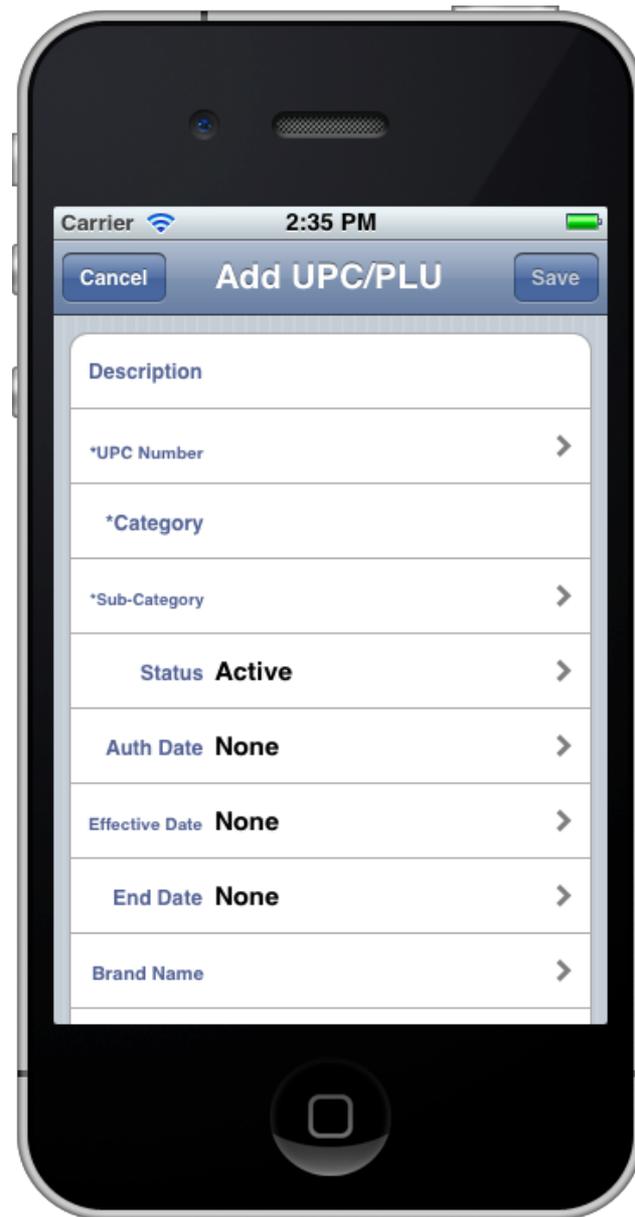
VA APL Central

- Mobile Capability
 - Allows for on-demand, mobile updates to APL.
 - With Wi-Fi access, APL can be updated anytime, anywhere.

ADD UPC/PLU Function

The Add UPC function allows entry of UPC as well as:

- Cat/SubCat Info.
- Status
(Active/Inactive)
- Effective Date
- End Date
- Brand Name
- Manuf. Name

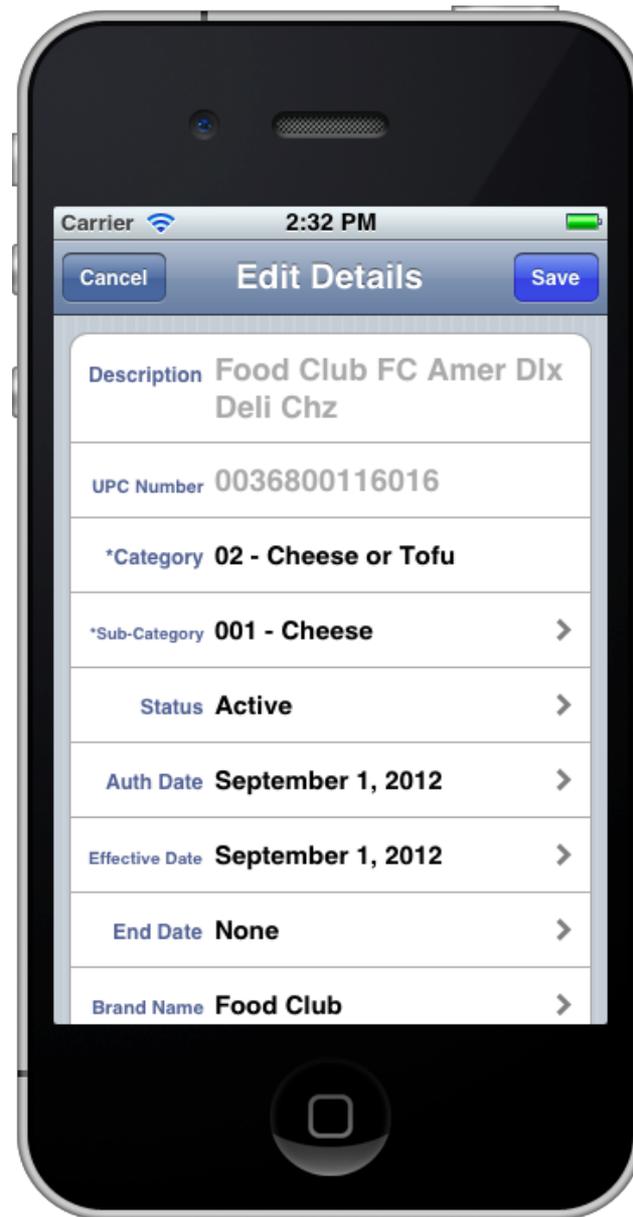


The image shows a screenshot of an iPhone displaying the 'Add UPC/PLU' form. The status bar at the top shows 'Carrier', signal strength, Wi-Fi, the time '2:35 PM', and battery level. The form has a blue header with 'Cancel', 'Add UPC/PLU', and 'Save' buttons. The form fields are as follows:

Description	
*UPC Number	>
*Category	
*Sub-Category	>
Status	Active >
Auth Date	None >
Effective Date	None >
End Date	None >
Brand Name	>

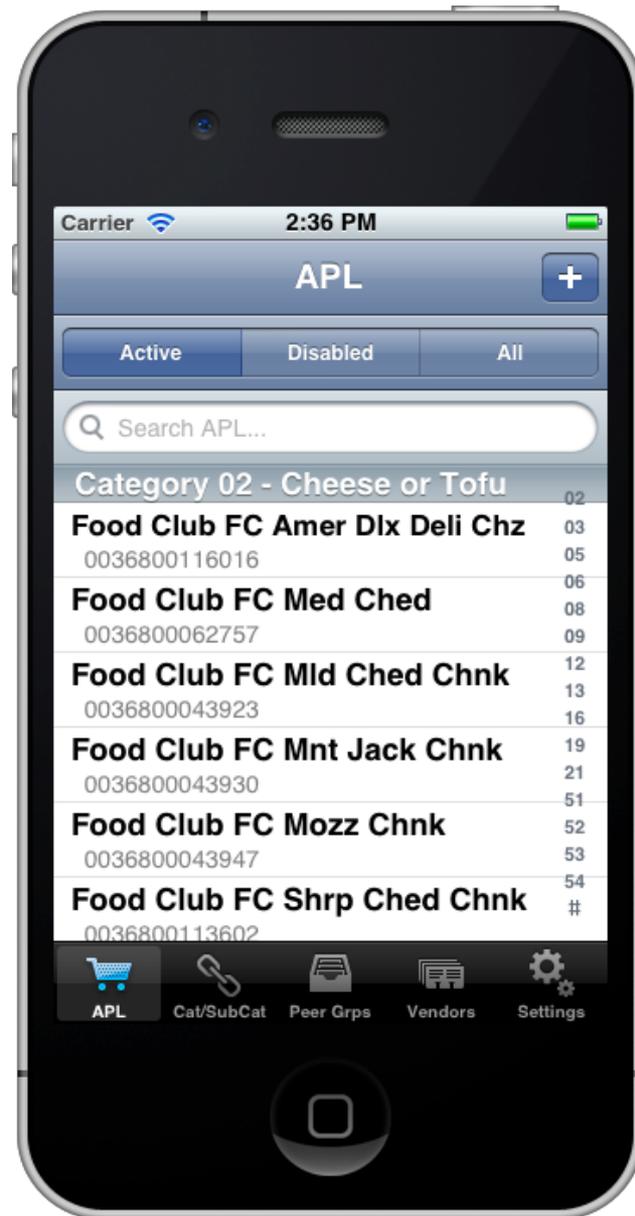
Edit Item Screen

Once entered, UPCs can be updated/edited using the Edit UPC screen.



Main APL Screen

- Allows filtering between Active and Disabled UPCs.
- UPCs listed in Category order.



Vendor Location

- Vendor Location screen displays retailer address/contact information.



Lessons Learned



The daydreams of cat herders

Communication is Vital

eWIC Workgroup

- Made up of both “Mom n Pop” retailers as well as Corporate representatives.
- Differing viewpoints of members allows a broad look at project.
- Most retailer concerns identified early.

eWIC Website

- Allows for quick updates to and information gathering from retailers.
- Document repository – meeting minutes, project documents easily found in one stop.
- Glossary of terms for those new to EBT.

Final Thoughts

- Do Not “Reinvent the Wheel”
- Examine existing WIC EBT projects to determine best practices
- Learn about work in progress including the business and technical workgroups
- Attend EBT Users Group Meetings