

Minutes

Work Group members in attendance: FDPIR Program Staff: Tod Robertson (NAFDPIR President), Anna Wright (NAFDPIR Secretary), Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer), Fi Davis (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian); Perry Martinez (SWR VP), Connie Martinez (SWR), Sharon Wheeler (SWR); Jenelle Gimlin (WR VP), Lorraine Davis (WR); Mary Greene-Trottier (MPR VP), Charles “Red” Gates (MPR), Lucy Atteberry (MPR); Lou Hankins, (FNS SWRO); Kathy Sweitzer (FNS MPRO), Lissa Ong (FNS WRO); Sara Hernandez (AMS), Laura Walter, Stephanie Cooks, (FNS).

Work Group members not at the meeting: Susie Roy (MWR VP), Betty Jo Graveen (MWR); Desiree Bergeron (WR); Samia Hamdan (FNS MWRO); Susie Roy (MWR VP); Betty Jo Graveen (MWR); Patti Schock (FNS).

Visitors: Janice Fitzgerald (Chief, FDD Household Operations), Matthew Martin (FDD), Erica Antonson (FDD), Barbara Lopez (FDD); SWR Program Directors.

I. Roll Call/Introductions

- a. Several newly elected members have joined the workgroup. They are Tod Robertson (NAFDPIR President), Anna Wright (NAFDPIR Secretary), Fi Davis (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian), and Perry Martinez (NAFDPIR SWR VP). Vacant positions include the MWR health/nutrition expert and the CDC nutritionist. FNS will be contacting CDC to invite a new representative to serve on the workgroup to replace Susan Anderson.
- b. FNS will be updating the workgroup contact list. Members are asked to provide any changes to their contact information since the last update.

II. Food Package Planning for FY 2014 -

- a. FNS shared a draft FY 2014 workgroup planning document with the membership.
- b. The document outlines agenda topics of interest to the workgroup for the upcoming year. Members are asked to review the document and provide comments by November 1st. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will update the draft for discussion and approval at the December face-to-face meeting.

III. USDA Foods Updates

- a. **Frozen pork chops**—Pork chops are in the warehouse for ordering. Fair share information went out last week. The pork chops are packed 40- 1 lb. packages to a case. Each 1 lb. pack has a BIUB date 6 months from the date of manufacture and programs should have plenty of time to distribute the product. The pork chops were purchased with FY 2013 funds and have bar codes on the packages. AIS has already been updated. Workgroup members requested an updated guide rate including the pork chops. A 75 day Continuing Resolution (CR) is anticipated for the beginning of FY 2014. FNS expects to only be able to purchase food for one quarter initially. Programs would like to see continued availability of the pork chops rather than have them be available only for the pilot. A product fact sheet was provided with the fair share information. Programs are encouraged to use the fact sheets with recipes for food demos. A workgroup member stated food safety is a concern in preparing pork and instant thermometers would be a benefit to families to test internal temperature during

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cooking. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will provide additional information to programs on the guide rate for pork chops. FNS will also research the availability of instant thermometers.

- b. No salt added canned corn and tomatoes and low sodium blended vegetable juice** – No salt added corn and tomatoes and low sodium vegetable juice blend were sampled at the NAFDPIR conference. Both products were well-received. FY 2014 orders have already been placed for low sodium canned corn and tomatoes however, the workgroup is asked to consider changing to the no salt added corn and tomatoes for the end of FY 2014 through FY 2015 ordering cycle. Orders for FY 2015 canned vegetables will be made in March 2014. Navajo Nation is already receiving the no salt added corn and participants are satisfied with the product. The low sodium blended vegetable juice sampled at the conference is similar to V8 juice and is 63% more in price than the tomato juice currently offered in the food package. **ACTION ITEM:** By October 4th, AMS will provide a short issue paper to the workgroup explaining procurement of no salt added and low sodium canned vegetables. Workgroup members will vote at the December face-to-face meeting on offering no salt added corn and tomatoes and low sodium vegetable juice blend in the food package.
- c. Warehouse slow movers:** Butter is a slow mover in the North Dakota (ND) State warehouse. The BIUB date for butter is 6 months if refrigerated and 1 year if kept frozen. The take rate has been slow and the ND warehouse has been donating product that has gone beyond the BIUB date. Workgroup members were concerned that donating food to other programs represents a loss in food resources to FDPIR participants. Even when the product is kept frozen and lasts for a year, participants see the buttery spread as the preferred option and don't take butter as often. FNS ordered butter based on estimated program participation. When participants don't take the product, inventories do increase and there is a chance product will reach the BIUB date before distribution. Offering butter as a bonus or increasing the guide rate is not an option in view of current program requirements. FNS received questions for the NAFDPIR slow movers survey from the workgroup Nutrition and Health Expert Subcommittee members. FNS is reviewing the questions to avoid any duplication with the questions for the FDPIR study. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will forward the final survey questions to the NAFDPIR Board by September 27th.
- d. Buffalo/bison vendor update:** Native American Enterprises and Kiva Sun still have not met the technical requirements to become USDA Foods vendors. AMS will continue to provide technical assistance as needed; however, both vendors must develop production plans that assure the standards of food safety and quality USDA requires for ground meat products.
- e. DoD eggs** – DoD has added language to new contracts to offer fresh eggs with FDPIR produce deliveries. One dozen eggs is equivalent to two packages of egg mix. The NAFDPIR survey will include questions about fresh eggs. The plan is to replace the powdered egg mix with fresh shell eggs. Some programs are concerned that egg breakage will be a problem for tailgate sites. DoD will take possible breakage into account and have protective packaging to minimize breakage. Extended shelf-life (ESL) eggs are offered in 16 oz. cartons and may be a problem for 1 and 2 person households because after opening, it has a short shelf-life.

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- IV. Regional Vendor Pilot** – Deliveries were made to participating programs the first two weeks of September. Pork chops will be delivered from the Paris Brothers warehouse. Some products were not yet available such as canned salmon, beef roast, fruit & nut mix, butter, and cream-style corn but the pilot sites are able to order these products from the multi-food warehouse.

DoD Customer Service – FNS followed-up with DoD on customer service concerns with the Wisconsin vendor. The DoD Regional representative called the new sub-contractor to discuss items in the catalog. FNS will work with DoD to develop a plan to resolve issues with affected programs. Workgroup members feel it would be helpful to have a DoD representative to the food package workgroup on a regular basis. Some foods have not been available in SW and Western Regions even though they are in the catalog. These items include avocados, squash, cherries, and cucumbers. Navajo Nation also had a problem with a driver who spoke Spanish and could not understand English. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will check to see if DoD can participate on future workgroup calls.

- V. December Face-to-Face Meeting** – The next workgroup meeting will be December 10-12, 2013 in Alexandria, VA. Workgroup members requested a draft agenda and letter of invitation from FNS to secure travel approval from their tribal leadership. The last day of the meeting will be set aside to present a NAFDPIR marketing project. The NAFDPIR Board previously requested the face-to-face meeting be held at a tribal location however, due to the expected Continuing Resolution this fall, travel funds may be limited. It was recommended that the summer 2014 face-to-face meeting include a visit to an FDPIR program location close to the conference site. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will send out a draft agenda and letter of invitation for the December face-to-face meeting.

VI. Other Business

- a. Warehouse inventory** – Navajo Nation has not been able to order canned chicken, corn flakes, and rice cereal from the Nampa warehouse. Product is being moved from another warehouse and should be available within the week. There were some purchasing challenges due to limited funding. The new cereal is not in the catalog yet however, it should be added in the next two days. Fruit & nut mix is also not currently available because product has reached the BIUB date. Additional product is being moved to Nampa from another warehouse.
- b. Complaints** - Navajo Nation received complaints that there is too much visible fat in the canned beef product. When a can of the beef was opened, there was a piece of plastic inside. Warehouse staff will send pictures of the canned beef product and submit a complaint. In addition, two tribes have submitted complaints and are holding roast beef product. They are awaiting further instructions from PSB Complaints staff.
- c. Final Rule: Income Deductions and Resource Eligibility** – On August 27, 2013, FNS published the FDPIR Income Deductions and Resource Eligibility final rule to expand access and improve the administration of the program. The final rule is available for viewing at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- Among its provisions, the rule:

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- Eliminates the household resource test as a basis for determining FDPIR eligibility.
 - Expands the current income deduction for Medicare Part B Medical Insurance and Part D Prescription Drug Coverage premiums to include other monthly medical expenses in excess of \$35 for households with elderly and/or disabled members. This expanded medical deduction provision mirrors the income deduction for medical expenses allowed under SNAP. In addition, this provision contains a meal-related deduction for households that furnish the majority of meals to a home care attendant, similar to SNAP.
 - Establishes a region-specific standard deduction for shelter and utility expenses. This new standard income deduction is allowed for any household that incurs the cost of at least one allowable shelter/utility expense. FNS sets the regional amounts and adjusts them annually for inflation.
- The provisions in the final rule respond to a resolution passed by the membership of NAFDPIR.
 - The final rule is effective September 26, 2013.
 - FNS is hosting two webinars to brief and answer questions from the program community on the changes made by the rule. The one hour webinars are scheduled for September 18, 2013, and again on October 2, 2013.

VII. Meeting Adjourned