

**Minutes**

**Work Group members in attendance:** FDPIR Program Staff: Roxanna Newsom (NAFDPIR President), Jaime Prouty-Nolan (NAFDPIR Treasurer), Gloria Goodwin (NAFDPIR Secretary); Jenelle Gimlin, Lorraine Davis (WR); Joe Bluehorse, Mary Greene-Trottier, Charles “Red” Gates, Kathy Walters (MPR); Tod Robertson, Florence Calabaza (SWR); Susie Roy (MWR); Laura Walter, Patti Schock, Stephanie Cooks (FNS); Casey Wong-Buehler (AMS).

**Work Group members not present:** Betty Jo Graveen, Sherry Bebeau (MWR); Gregory Nothstine, Desiree Simeon, (WR); Nanelle Micco, (SWR).

**Visitors:** Shirley Roberts, Matthew Martin, (FNS).

**I. Discussion**

The Work Group met to discuss and decide on a frozen chicken option for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter FY2012 and beyond. Tribes are currently receiving frozen whole chickens and individually frozen split chicken breasts in 5 lb. bags. One Mountain Plains Regional representative explained that some Regional tribes had not tried the split breasts yet and needed more time to sample before deciding on a product for the future. The Workgroup also asked if other options were available for frozen chicken such as a whole frozen cut-up chicken or the choice of individual pieces of white and/or dark meat. The current options that are available with known vendors are the frozen whole chicken (2 to 4 vendors) and the 5 lb. bag of split breasts (1 vendor).

The Western, Southwest and Midwest ITO representatives voted to continue the split breast chicken product for the following reasons: (1) participants receive more edible meat, (2) the product is more versatile, (3) the product is lower in fat, and (4) the product quantity is greater and lasts longer.

Two of the three Mountain Plains Regional representatives voted to continue the whole chicken product because participants get the option of both white and dark meat, which allows for more variety. The third Mountain Plains Regional representative needed additional time for all tribes to sample both products before making a choice.

Due to the split decision, members asked if there was an option to offer the split breast product for 6 months and the whole bird product for 6 months. From a contracting perspective, it might be possible to offer each product alternately for 6 months, if participants would be agreeable to that option.

**II. Decision**

As an interim measure, the Workgroup decided to continue with the split breast product for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter FY 2012 (April through June 2012). The product will be fair shared to ensure wider availability and give all tribes the chance to receive it. FNS will also meet with FNS Mountain Plains Regional staff to discuss direct shipment to North Dakota. Further research will be needed to determine the feasibility of offering frozen whole chicken and split chicken breasts on an alternating 6-month distribution schedule. AMS will check with the vendor for the split

**Minutes**

breast product to discuss complaints of the closure coming off of the ends of the plastic bags, leaving the bags open.

**III. Additional FNS, AMS and FSA Updates**

Comments on the FDPIR interim guide rates have been received from the NAFDPIR Board and will be considered for the guide rate updates. Procurement updates will be provided during the February 22, 2012 Workgroup meeting for the fat content of 85/15 ground beef, wild rice, cream of chicken and cream of mushroom soups, butter, and Best-if-Used-By dates on flour.

**IV. Meeting Adjourned**