

Meeting Notes

Work Group members in attendance: FDPIR Program Staff: Joe VanAlstine (NAFDPIR President); Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer); Judy Fisch (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian); Marisa Mitchell (NAFDPIR Secretary); Perry Martinez (SWR VP); Lorraine Davis (WR), Desiree Jackson (NAFDPIR WR Nutritionist); Mary Greene-Trottier (MPR VP), Charles “Red” Gates (MPR), Jana Millner (NAFDPIR MPR Nutritionist); Susie Roy (MWR VP); Gloria Goodwin (MWR); Jessica Creed-Capsel (FNS MPRO); Holly Prestegaard (FNS WRO); Graydon Yatabe (CDC); Julie Skolmowski (Chief, NSAB, FDD), Matthew Martin (FDD), and Stephanie Cooks (FNS).

Work Group members not at the meeting: Connie Martinez (SWR); Carmen Robertson (NAFDPIR SWR Nutritionist); Theresa Gordon (NAFDPIR MWR Nutritionist); Ray Capoeman (WR VP); Samia Hamdan (FNS MWRO).

Visitors: Laura Castro (Director, FDD); Janice Fitzgerald (Chief HH Ops, FDD); Dana Rasmussen (Chief, Policy, FDD); Barbara Lopez (FDD); Erica Antonson (FDD), Jeramia Garcia (FDD).

Welcome and Introductions: Workgroup members introduced themselves and welcomed Captain Graydon Yatabe, the new CDC representative to the workgroup. Ray Capoeman, program director for the Quinault FDPIR program, has been named the new NAFDPIR Western Region Vice President. Ray is replacing Jenelle Gimlin on the workgroup.

- I. **Tribal Leaders Meeting Update:** Tribal leaders met with senior USDA leaders in Washington, D.C. on February 23, 2016. Meeting attendees discussed a variety of FDPIR topics of concern to the tribal community. Tribal leaders also asked that USDA seat a tribal leaders workgroup to work on these issues. FNCS Under Secretary Kevin Concannon agreed to review options for seating the workgroup and respond to tribal leaders within the coming weeks.

II. **USDA Foods:**

a. **Traditional foods** –

- i. Blue cornmeal – Two truckloads of blue cornmeal were distributed to FDPIR participants. The product was very well-received. Some recipes were shared by program staff, however, workgroup members recommended that a greater variety of recipes be shared in advance of receiving new foods to give participants more ideas/ways to use the product. The blue cornmeal product received during fall 2015 was provided by a non-Native American company. Since that time, a Native American company has expressed interest in providing blue cornmeal for the FDPIR food package.
- ii. Bison – Bison distribution has gone very well to date. The current vendors will continue bison shipments until the end of June 2016. FNS and AMS are reaching out to vendors to explore future FY 2016 bison procurement using \$3 million of the \$5 million traditional foods funding as requested by the workgroup at the December 2015 face-to-face meeting.
- iii. Pacific salmon – USDA has reached out to the Pacific seafood industry to determine availability and pricing for frozen Sockeye and Silver (Coho)

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- salmon fillets. **ACTION ITEM:** USDA will provide an update to the workgroup at the April 2016 meeting.
- iv. Wild rice – USDA received feedback from potential wild rice vendors asking about the wild rice specifications programs would prefer. The NAFDPIR Midwest Region workgroup representatives identified the following wild rice specifications:
1. The wild rice must be traditionally harvested and finished (wood parched),
 2. Programs will accept a product harvested and finished during the last growing season (August /September 2015),
 3. Mill run wild rice will be acceptable, and
 4. The requested limit for broken wild rice is no more than 5 to 10%, if possible.
- b. Beef stew – The workgroup discussed the option to replace the current beef stew (880 mg of sodium per cup serving) with a reduced sodium version of the same product (750 mg sodium per cup serving) as sampled at the December 2015 face-to-face meeting. Taste test results for overall satisfaction for all samples were in the satisfactory range however, the beef stew sample with 750 mg of sodium per cup serving received the highest ratings for acceptability. The workgroup decided not to change the sodium level at this time. The group asked to receive samples of the lower sodium beef stew from the vendor to conduct taste tests with participants at a small number of program sites. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will coordinate with AMS to see if the beef stew vendor can produce additional lower sodium samples to send to program sites.
- c. Holiday ham – The frozen holiday ham FDPIR currently receives has 980 mg of sodium in a 3 oz. serving. School programs receive a similar product that has less than 600 mg sodium in a 3 oz. serving. The workgroup discussed options to replace the current holiday ham with a lower sodium option. One workgroup member mentioned some participants like the current product even though it has a higher sodium content per serving. The NAFDPIR members of the workgroup preferred not to pursue a lower sodium holiday ham product at this time.
- d. Whole grains –
- i. Shredded wheat cereal – FNS will add shredded wheat cereal and remove the corn and rice biscuits cereal from the food package when the national warehouse supply of the corn and rice biscuits cereal has been completely distributed. The shredded wheat is expected to be available in July/August 2016.
 - ii. Whole grain flour tortillas – In December 2015, the workgroup voted to add a 1 lb. package of whole grain flour tortillas to the food package. **ACTION ITEM:** USDA is adding the 1 lb. package size to the product specification for whole grain flour tortillas and requesting a material code for the new product. The product is expected to be added to the food package in late summer 2016.
 - iii. Whole grain pasta – As requested at the December 2015 workgroup meeting, USDA checked with vendors to determine the current industry

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standard for whole grain pasta packages. USDA found that the industry standard package size for whole grain pasta is a 13 oz. box, which is a smaller package size than the 16 oz. enriched pasta products currently offered in the food package.

- iv. White whole wheat flour – USDA is researching the availability of white whole wheat flour as a replacement for the current whole wheat flour in the food package. **ACTION ITEM:** USDA will provide an update on 100% white whole wheat flour at the April 2015 meeting.
- e. Cream of Mushroom soup – USDA will conduct a mushroom soup product review in March 2016 to identify a condensed mushroom soup product that would be acceptable for the food package. **ACTION ITEM:** USDA will provide a product review update at the April 2016 workgroup meeting.
- f. Other food items –
 - i. Cherry Apple juice – In December 2015, the workgroup voted to replace grapefruit juice in the food package with cherry apple juice. There is still a large national warehouse supply of grapefruit juice. National warehouse inventories of grapefruit juice must be distributed before cherry apple juice can be added. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will monitor grapefruit juice inventories and provide a status update at the April 2016 meeting.
 - ii. Shell egg pilot – The Seneca Nation shell egg pilot continues to be successful. FNS and DoD are discussing next steps for reviewing the potential for expansion of the shell egg pilot. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will provide a status update at the April 2016 meeting.

III. Other Business:

- a. Cream of Chicken Soup Complaint – White Earth Nation received cream of chicken soup that was watery with large solid chunks. Program staff will enter the complaint in the system and send pictures of the product to FNS. **ACTION ITEM:** USDA will follow-up with the vendor to resolve the complaint and notify White Earth Nation.
- b. FY 2016 Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations Nutrition Education (FDPNE) Grants – The deadline for FDPNE Grant proposal submission is March 15, 2016.
- c. Next workgroup meeting – The next workgroup meeting will be held in late April 2016. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will send out proposed dates for members to choose from and send a meeting request to members with the final date.

IV. Meeting Adjourned