

**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); Connie Martinez (SWR); Ray Capoeman (WR VP); Lorraine Davis (WR), Desiree Jackson (NAFDPIR WR Nutritionist); Mary Greene-Trottier (MPR VP), Charles “Red” Gates (MPR); Susie Roy (MWR VP); Gloria Goodwin (MWR), Theresa Gordon/Peggi Bazant (NAFDPIR MWR Nutritionist); Samia Hamdan (FNS MWRO); Kathy Sweitzer (FNS MPRO – attending for Jessica Creed-Capsel); Holly Prestegaard (FNS WRO); Julie Skolmowski (Chief, NSAB, FDD), Matthew Martin (FDD), and Stephanie Cooks (FNS).

**Work Group members not at the meeting:** Carmen Robertson (NAFDPIR SWR Nutritionist); Jana Millner (NAFDPIR MPR Nutritionist); Graydon Yatabe (CDC).

**Visitors:** Governor James R. Mountain (Governor of Pueblo de San Ildefonso); Debbie Whitford (SNAS); Laura Castro (Director, FDD); Janice Fitzgerald (Chief HH Ops, FDD); Jeramia Garcia (FDD), Carol Givens-Verser (AMS), Rachel Hight (AMS), and NAFDPIR members.

- I. USDA Traditional Foods Procurement:** FNS and AMS are continuing their work to procure traditional foods for FY 2016. The following highlight traditional foods procurement activities since the workgroup’s last meeting:
- a. **Wild rice** – The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe ITO has completed the USDA approved vendor process. AMS released the solicitation for bids on June 6, 2016. Bids are due in by July 12, 2016 and awards are expected to be made on July 15, 2016.
  - b. **Wild frozen salmon fillets** –AMS released a solicitation for frozen sockeye salmon. Market research suggests that the product should be readily available this year. The salmon fillet product will include four 4 oz. individually vacuum packaged portions per 1 lb. package. There are forty 1 lb. packages to a case. There was a discussion about concerns with quality and type of salmon that would be offered. FNS reiterated during the meeting that this first distribution would be a “first look” at the product. There would be opportunity for feedback and comments in order to update the product specification if needed. **ACTION ITEM:** FNS will send out a request to workgroup members for new FDPIR traditional foods recipes to include on fact sheets and share with programs.
  - c. **Bison** –Two to three additional deliveries are expected to complete the current bison contract. Bids for bison delivery in FY 2017 are due by July 20, 2016. Award is expected on August 1, 2016. AIS allows one person households to receive 1- 1.25 lb. of bison every other month. Workgroup members expressed interest in updating the fair share process to account for those ITOs that do not want any bison. There were also concerns with ITOs not being able to order their fair share depending on their delivery date. FNS let workgroup members know that they can always contact the Household Operations Branch if they need more bison or if they need assistance in ordering. FNS also let the workgroup know that Tribes can work with AMS if they are interested in being a bison vendor, or subcontracting with a bison vendor.

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- d. **Blue cornmeal** – Blue cornmeal deliveries to the national warehouses are expected in July 2016. Blue cornmeal will be added to the flour/cornmeal category as a regular food package item. A workgroup member asked what the shelf-life of the blue cornmeal will be and if the product is available in 1 lb. packages. **ACTION ITEM**: FNS will verify the shelf-life and package size information and provide an update to the workgroup.
- e. **Food cost information** – The workgroup would like to compare the cost of protein options in the food package with the nutrients they provide. **ACTION ITEM**: FNS will provide this information at the next workgroup meeting.

II. **December 2015 Proposed Food Package Changes Update:** At the December 2015 workgroup meeting, the group decided to increase the whole grain options in the food package, replace canned salmon with canned tuna, replace grapefruit juice with cherry apple juice, and explore availability of a condensed cream of mushroom soup. Following is the progress made toward these changes:

- a. **Whole Grain Tortillas and Shredded Wheat Cereal** – Whole grain tortillas and shredded wheat cereal have been purchased. Expected delivery to the national warehouses for both products is mid-July 2016. The shredded wheat cereal will replace the corn-rice biscuits cereal (110265).
- b. **Canned Tuna** – Canned tuna has been purchased. Expected delivery to the national warehouses is August 2016.
- c. **Grapefruit and Cherry Apple Juice** – Cherry apple juice is expected to be available in the national warehouses for October - December 2016. The current inventory of grapefruit juice in the national warehouses is expected to allow grapefruit juice distribution through October 2016.
- d. **Brown rice** – With expected procurement of wild rice in FY 2016, the workgroup did not want to further pursue brown rice at this time.
- e. **White whole wheat flour** – Product is available however, the workgroup would like to sample the product before making a decision. **ACTION ITEM**: FNS will check with AMS to see if product samples are available.
- f. **Blended penne pasta** – Blended penne pasta with whole grain and enriched flour is available. The workgroup would like more nutrition information on the benefits of blended pasta products. Workgroup members would also like to sample products. FNS mentioned that they are working with AMS to get whole grain rotini in a box, which workgroup members feel will increase the take rate. Workgroup members also discussed how to manage the difference in the offered vs delivered HEI scores for FDPIR. The workgroup members noted that if the participants are not taking the 100% whole grain options it might be better to remove them in favor of the blended options. One of the workgroup members commented that the blended pasta products should replace the white pasta products while keeping the 100% whole grain as an additional option. **ACTION ITEM**: FNS will provide more information on the benefits of whole grain rich products at the next meeting.
- g. **Individual-sized watermelons** – Market availability of domestic individual-sized watermelons are limited this year. **ACTION ITEM**: FNS will revisit with DoD next spring to see if market conditions are expected to change.

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- h. **Cream of mushroom soup** – The workgroup would like a cream of mushroom soup with better flavor, a thicker consistency (condensed), and more visible mushroom pieces. **ACTION ITEM**: FNS and AMS are working with vendors to identify a commercially available condensed cream of mushroom soup that meets the current “healthy” standard.

**III. Other Business:**

- a. **DoD Regional Representatives:** - DoD Fresh issues are now being handled by FDD’s Program Monitoring and Integrity Branch. An updated list of DoD Regional representatives is available and will be shared with FDPIR program staff at the NAFDPIR conference warehouse breakout sessions on Wednesday.
- b. **Agenda Items for the Next Workgroup Meeting:** FNS will add the following items of discussion to the next workgroup meeting agenda:
  - i. Finalize requirements for a lower sodium ham for November/December 2017,
  - ii. Share highlights of the recent HEI Study results, and
  - iii. Discuss possible meeting locations/agenda items for the fall 2016 face-to-face workgroup meeting.
- c. **Next workgroup meeting** – The next workgroup meeting will be held later this summer via conference call. **ACTION ITEM**: FNS will send out a meeting request to workgroup members.

**IV. Meeting Adjourned**