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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

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Alexandria, VA
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SUBJECT: SFMNP Policy Memorandum: # 2009-2
Policy on Honey for SFMNP

TO: Regional Directors
Supplemental Food Programs
All Regions

Several questions have recently been raised regarding which types of honey may be purchased using the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) benefits. The purpose of this policy memorandum is to clarify that issue.

Honey can be found in a variety of forms. In keeping with the principles of eligible foods policies, only unprocessed, locally produced honey is allowable under the SFMNP. Honey in any form is not allowable in the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

Listed below are examples of allowable and unallowable forms of honey. This list may not be exhaustive; if other forms are suggested or encountered, please contact your regional office for a final decision.

Allowable Forms of Honey

Comb Honey-honey that comes exactly as it was produced in the hive.

Cut Comb Honey-liquid honey that may have added chunks of the honey in the jar.

Liquid Honey-honey that is 100 percent pure, is free of visible crystals and has been extracted directly from the honey comb.

Naturally Crystallized Honey-honey that is spontaneously crystallized.

Kosher/Wild/Organic Honey-100 percent pure, conventionally produced honey which is free of chemicals, drugs and antibiotics.

Honey Sticks-liquid honey in a straw. Unflavored variety only.

Unallowable Forms of Honey

Whipped/Sugared/Creamed Honey-honey that has been whipped into a crystallized state.

Dried Honey-honey that has been dehydrated and mixed with other ingredients.

Flavored/Fruited Honey-honey that has fruit, coloring or flavoring added.

Pasteurized Honey-liquid honey that has been heated to a very high temperature.

Infused Honey-honey that has flavors of herbs, spices or peels added.

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Acting Director

Supplemental Food Programs Division

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The contents of this guidance document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.