



# Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

## Food Package Review Work Group

June 27, 2024

### Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 FDPIR Food Package Review Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Voting Members			
Mary Greene-Trottier (NAFDPIR President)		Joe Van Alstine (MWR VP)	X
Rex Hailey (NAFDPIR Parliamentarian)		Gloria Goodwin (MWR)	
Jaime Prouty (NAFDPIR Treasurer)	X	Tonya Laurent (MWR Nutritionist)	X
Marisa Fuller (NAFDPIR Secretary)		Perry Martinez (SW VP)	X
Debbie Reyes – Gardipee (WR VP)	X	Vacant (SWR)	
AC Sanchez (WRR)		Connie Black (SWR Nutritionist)	X
Carla Patterson (WR Nutritionist)/ Alisha Vallee on behalf	X	Janell Conway (HQ FNS Nutritionist)	X
Blake Garrison (MP VP)	X	Vacant (CDC Nutritionist)	
Vacant (MPR)			
Mara Wack (MPR Nutritionist)			

Non-Voting Attendees	
FNS HQ Support Staff	Additional FNS/AMS Support Staff
<b>SNAS Front Office:</b> Claire Brown	<b>FNS Regional Offices:</b> Sabina Velasco (MPRO) and Holly Williams (SWRO)
<b>Food Safety and Nutrition Division:</b> Kristin Garcia, Tina Hanes, Janell Conway, Katie O’Donnell, Lisa Mays, and Kati Burton	<b>FNS Tribal Affairs:</b> Erin Parker and Heriberto Martinez
<b>Operations Division:</b> Laura Castro, Danielle Lyons, Lauren King-Dillon, Christina Riley, and Justin Lew	<b>AMS Support Staff:</b> Denise Glover
<b>Policy Division:</b> Sara Olson, Samantha Prins, and Liam Comer-Weaver	
<b>Funding and Technology Division:</b> Katie Treen and Katie Clifford	
<b>Program Integrity and Monitoring Division:</b> Shenique Bridges, Kathy Staley, and Barbara Lopez	

#### I. Welcome and Attendance

- a. FNS confirmed attendees and provided an overview of the agenda.

#### II. Discussion: USDA DoD Fresh Workgroup Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Proposal

- a. In FY 2023, FNS began facilitating regularly scheduled collaborative meetings with FDPIR program partners and DoD’s Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). This Workgroup discusses improvements related to fresh produce offered in the program and makes recommendations to subsequently be reviewed by the Food Package Review Workgroup. A recent main activity included for FNS and DLA to review its



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produce list, availability of product, and package sizes to then offer recommendations.

- b. In response to FNS/DLA's review and evaluation of fresh fruits and vegetables, produce vendors that support FDPIR provided feedback on when seasonal items are available and updated information on commercially available package sizes.
- c. Based on this feedback, FNS prepared a proposal to update the FDPIR Guide Rate based on the available package sizes listed in the FFAVORS catalog. This proposal was first reviewed and discussed by USDA DoD Fresh Program Workgroup members who offered their support, and then shared with Food Package Review Workgroup members prior to the call.
- d. FNS shared short-term recommendations and specific food package changes in the proposal.
  - i. Short-term recommendations:
    - Work with DLA to add new package sizes to FFAVORS catalogs.
    - Update the FDPIR Fruit and Vegetable List posted in FFAVORS and communicate changes to FDPIR programs and USDA DoD Fresh vendors.
    - Update the FDPIR Guide Rate.
    - Update the produce seasonal availability chart to accurately reflect the availability of seasonal produce items posted on the [USDA DoD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program website](#).
  - ii. Recommended Changes to the FDPIR Guide Rate and FFAVORS:
    - **Remove avocados**, a seasonal item, from the list of produce available to order. This item is available to a limited number of FDPIR programs who are serviced by DLA vendors that can source the product domestically. Avocados are not available nationwide.
      - a. While avocados are available to a limited number of FDPIR programs, the Food Package Review Workgroup discussed keeping them on the list as to not limit programs that may be able to order this item. Based on this discussion, this recommendation was changed to **keep avocados** on the list for those programs that are serviced by DLA vendors that can source the product domestically.
    - **Add seedless cucumbers** (also referred to as English or greenhouse cucumbers) to the list. Field grown cucumbers are included on the FDPIR Fruit and Vegetable List and vendors in the west and southwest report the U.S. grown field grown cucumbers are not available.
    - **Update the FDPIR Guide Rate to list fruit and vegetable options are distributed by weight as 1 LB. = 1 Unit versus by size**



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(“medium” and “small”). Remove the last page of the FDPIR Guide Rate and list fresh produce options by category.

- **Add additional produce package sizes in FFAVORS.** Per FNS/DLA’s review, additional package sizes are available and can be added to FFAVORS for ordering.
- iii. Due to a lack of quorum present, the Food Package Review Workgroup agreed to vote on these recommendations and implementation timeframe (**September 2024** or **December 2024**) by email.

### III. Food Package Updates

- a. FNS reviewed the recent guide rate enhancements and delivery expectations for each of the three new foods.

Category	Guide Rate Changes: Effective June 1, 2024
Meat/Poultry/Fish	Increase from 5 to 6 units
Vegetables	Increase from 18 to 20 units
New Foods	Vegetable stir-fry blend, frozen – 1 lb. pack (in stock) Turkey deli, low-sodium, frozen – 2 lb. pack (in stock) Extra virgin olive oil – 16.9 oz glass bottle (expected availability Fall 2024)

- b. On April 17, 2024, resources were sent to FDPIR Program Directors to support the new guide rate, including informational handouts, a recipe card for the olive oil, and an updated shopping list. FDPIR Program Directors also received the revised Exhibit O – FDPIR Monthly Distribution Guide Rate and product information sheets for the three new foods May 31, 2024.
- c. The Workgroup provided feedback that FDPIR customers were satisfied with the quality of the turkey deli meat and enjoyed the flavor and texture.
- d. Workgroup members expressed that some programs have only received the turkey deli meat, while others have not received either of the two new products currently available.

### IV. Workgroup Meeting Schedule

- a. The FDPIR Food Package Review Nutrition Subgroup will meet July 16 to discuss the recent food package updates and supporting resources.
- b. The next regular virtual call for the FDPIR Food Package Review Workgroup will be held in September 2024. FNS will provide dates and times to the Workgroup in August to schedule.
- c. FNS is seeking input from the NAFDPIR Board on date and location preferences for a forthcoming in-person meeting.

### V. Meeting Adjourned