New Crediting Guidance in Child Nutrition Programs

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USDA Crediting Memos

Team Nutrition's webinar series on implementation of the changes in child nutrition programs specific to the following Crediting Request for Information (RFI) memos:

- SP34 CACFP15 SFSP15-2019: Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Masa Harina in the Child Nutrition Programs
- SP26 CACFP13 SFSP12-2019: Crediting Pasta Products Made of Vegetable Flour in the Child Nutrition Programs
- SP25 CACFP12 SFSP11-2019: Crediting Tempeh in the Child Nutrition Programs
- SP24 CACFP11 SFSP10-2019: Crediting Surimi Seafood in the Child Nutrition Programs
- SP23 CACFP10 SFSP09-2019: Crediting Popcorn in the Child Nutrition Programs
- SP21 CACFP08 SFSP07-2019: Crediting Shelf Stable, Dried and Semi-Dried Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Products in the Child Nutrition Programs
- SP08 CACFP02 SFSP02-2019: Update of Food Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs

New Crediting Guidance

• Applies to:
  – National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
  – School Breakfast Program (SBP)
  – Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)
  – Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
Food Buying Guide

- [https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov](https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov)
- Meal pattern contribution/crediting updates
Coconut

**Creditable in CNP’s**
- Fresh and frozen coconut
  - Credits as fruit based on volume served
- Dried coconut
  - Credits at twice the volume served (1/4 cup = ½ cup fruit)
- Coconut water - labeled as containing 100% juice can credit as a fruit
  - Based on volume served

**Not Creditable**
- Coconut flour
- Coconut milk
- Coconut oil
Hominy (Hominy Grits)

- May credit as a vegetable or grain component
- \(\frac{1}{4}\) cup canned, drained hominy or cooked, whole hominy credit as \(\frac{1}{4}\) cup starchy vegetable
- \(\frac{1}{2}\) cup cooked or 1 oz dried hominy grits credit as 1 oz equivalent whole grain
Label Reading and Grits

- Grits specifically labeled as *homingy grits* and products specifying that the corn is *whole corn* can be credited as a *whole grain*.
- Grits labeled simply as *grits, stone ground corn* or *degermed corn* are not creditable in the CNP’s.

**Ingredients:** Specially processed degerminated white corn grits, salt, calcium carbonate, reduced iron, niacin*, BHT and citric acid (as preservatives), thiamin mononitrate*, riboflavin*, folic acid*.

*One of the B vitamins*
Corn Masa, Corn Flour, Cornmeal

- Creditable grain ingredients
- Determined by weight as listed in Exhibit A: Grain Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs
- Corn that is not “whole” or “enriched” does not credit as a grain
Exhibit A: Grain Oz. Eq.

Step 1: find the product in a group on the left hand side of the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group B</th>
<th>Oz Eq for Group B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bagels</td>
<td>1 oz eq = 28 gm or 1.0 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batter type coating</td>
<td>3/4 oz eq = 21 gm or 0.75 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biscuits</td>
<td>1/2 oz eq = 14 gm or 0.5 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breads - all (for example sliced, French, Italian)</td>
<td>1/4 oz eq = 7 gm or 0.25 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buns (hamburger and hot dog)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Crackers (graham crackers - all shapes, animal crackers)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg roll skins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English muffins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pita bread</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza crust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pretzels (soft)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tortillas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tortilla chips</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taco shells</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 2: look on the right hand side to determine the minimum serving size required for that product.
Exhibit A Grains Tool

WELCOME TO THE FOOD BUYING GUIDE

The Interactive Food Buying Guide allows for easy display, search, and navigation of food yield information. In addition, users can compare yield information, create a favorite foods list, and access the Recipe Analysis Workbook (RAW) and the Product Formulation Statement Workbook.
Whole Grain and Corn

• Some products made with cornmeal and/or corn flour ingredients may require additional information on a product formulation statement (PFS) to count toward the WGR requirement
• FDA approved WG health claims
• Look for “whole corn” on the label
Popcorn

- Allows popcorn to credit as a whole grain
- 3 cups (1 ounce) popped popcorn = 1 oz equivalent whole grain
- Crediting commercially-prepared foods - must obtain product formulation statement
Dried Meat Products

• Credit as meat/meat alternate
• Applies to dried meat, poultry and seafood
• Not included in Food Buying Guide as industry standards vary widely
• PFS and Child Nutrition (CN) labels are the two acceptable formats for documenting meal contributions
Child Nutrition (CN) Labels

- Product has been evaluated by USDA to determine its contribution towards the meal pattern
Product Formulation Statement (PFS)

• Request when purchasing a processed product without a CN label
• Demonstrates how a processed product contributes toward the meal pattern requirements
• From the manufacturer
Surimi Seafood

- Credits as meat/meat alternate
- A 3 oz portion credits as 1 oz M/MA
- May contain as little as 1/3 seafood ingredients
- Can document higher percentages using CN label or PFS from manufacturer.
• Credits as meat alternate
• 1 oz of tempeh = 1 oz equiv. meat alternate
  – Soybeans/other legumes only
• Tempeh that includes other ingredients such as brown rice, seeds and vegetables may also credit (need CN label or PFS)
Pasta Products Made with Vegetable Flour

• Allows to credit as a vegetable
• Pasta made with 100% vegetable flour credits as vegetable
• Pasta made with non-vegetable ingredients may credit with product formulation statement
Pasta Products Made with Legume Flours

• Allows to credit as meat/meat alternate
• ½ cup cooked pasta made with 100% legume flour may credit as 2 oz equivalent M/MA
• To credit, must offer with additional M/MA, such as tofu, cheese or meat.
Signage and Training - Legume Pasta

- Signs or other education that pasta made of vegetable flour is a “vegetable” and not a grain.
  - Pasta made with chickpea flour is “Chickpea pasta”
- Serving line staff training must be informed
  - Contribution towards meal pattern
Crediting Webinars

Crediting Updates for Child Nutrition Programs: Be in the Know! Webinar Series

Thank you

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