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Food and Nutrition

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FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

Instructions Issued for Disaster Feeding

TO AID DISASTER victims, FNS has published instructions on disaster feeding in food stamp areas. Instructions for Emergency Food Stamp Assistance in Disasters [FNS(FS) Instructions 722-3 and 732-3] emphasize the need for coordination among the various groups involved. The instructions charge the State agencies which administer food programs to establish a close working relationship with the Office of Emergency Preparedness, American National Red Cross, Salvation Army, Civil Defense, Office of Economic Opportunity, and other disaster agencies.

In disaster situations, food assistance is available to all those in need. FNS first tries to meet the needs of victims by using the personal hardship provisions of the ongoing food stamp program. These provisions allow a deduction from monthly income for unusual expenses resulting from a disaster. Such deductions would reduce or eliminate a disaster victim's purchase price. Recent changes in the Food Stamp Act allow households with no income or very low income to receive coupons at no cost.

If disaster victims cannot obtain quick food help through regular program procedures, FNS may then authorize emergency issuance of food stamps.

Disaster issuance of food stamps means that State welfare departments will use emergency procedures to issue free coupons to those who meet the eligibility

requirements. To be eligible a household must (1) be living either temporarily or permanently within a disaster area designated by FNS, (2) have cooking facilities, and (3) have suffered a reduction in or inaccessibility of income or cash resources as a result of the disaster.

Copies of the instructions may be obtained by writing the Management Services Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

AMENDMENTS TO FOOD STAMP REGULATIONS OFFERED

USDA HAS INVITED PUBLIC comment on a series of proposed amendments to the food stamp program regulations which are concerned with the technical operation of the program. The revisions would:

- Broaden the definition of "hearing official" to include the recorder at a fair hearing as among those eligible for reimbursement by the Food and Nutrition Service.
- Allow State agencies to make direct refunds to recipients who have been overcharged for their coupons.
- Authorize State agencies to cooperate with Federal, State or local government investigations of violations of the Act or regulations by allowing suspected ineligibles to continue to participate in the program during the investigation.
- Allow a deduction from income for

court-ordered support and alimony payments.

The proposed amendments were published in the Federal Register on August 25. Interested parties are invited to send comments to James H. Kocher, Director, Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, so as to be received by close of business Monday, Sept. 25.

Massive Relief Feeding Boosts July Figures

MUCH OF THE JULY increase in food stamp participation was due to assistance provided to an estimated 350,000 victims of the floods that struck the Northeast, South Dakota, and some West Coast areas during June.

The total of 15 million persons participating in both the food stamp and food distribution programs is more than double the 6.8 million in the programs in July 1969--the month prior to the establishment of FNS in August 1969.

Participation in the Special Food Service Program for Children totaled an es-

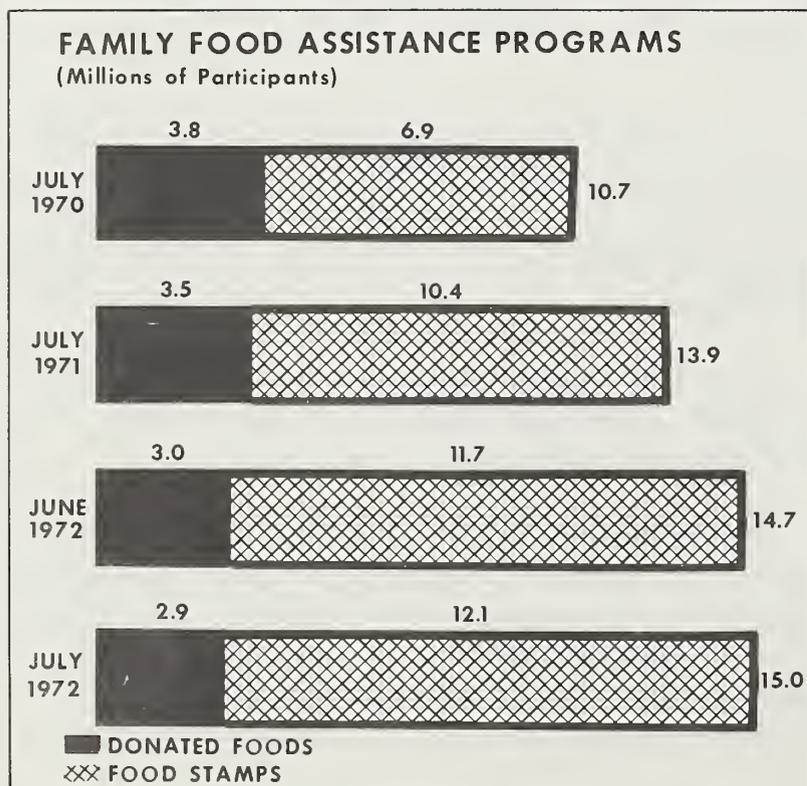
timated 1.5 million children. A million plus at playgrounds and other recreational areas participated in summer feeding programs, and another 150,000 were served in year-'round day care centers. Special Food Service is the only child nutrition program that is reported during the summer months.

NEW CAFETERIAS DEDICATED IN TEXAS

MORE THAN 12,000 elementary and high school students were in the spotlight at Mission and Weslaco, Texas, Sept. 12, when two new school cafeterias were dedicated for their use. About 80 to 90 percent of these students are eligible for free or reduced-priced lunches.

The two new school cafeterias are a good example of how local community leaders can get help from State and Federal agencies, the latter working cooperatively through the Federal Regional Council.

Mission and Weslaco mark a major thrust in bringing "no-program" schools into the National School Lunch Program. Texas' education agency reports that 98 percent of the elementary and high school students of the State now have access to the Type A lunch.



More Flexible Meal Requirements

AMENDED REGULATIONS to permit greater flexibility in meeting nutritional requirements for meals served under its several child nutrition programs have been proposed by FNS.

The changes would permit certain variations in the required food components of federally reimbursed meals served to children in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Special Food Service Programs.

FNS approval of variations in the food components will be based upon the tested

nutrient content and a determination that the alternate food will assist in maintaining or enhancing the nutritional adequacy of the meals.

Food Program Appropriations

PRESIDENT NIXON on August 22 signed into law the Appropriations Bill for USDA and related agencies for Fiscal Year 1973. Here are the amounts provided for the operation of food assistance programs:

<u>CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS</u>	(dollars)
School Lunch	274,747,000
Free & Rdc'd-Price Lunches..	587,500,000
School Breakfast	52,500,000
Nonfood Assistance	16,110,000
State Adm. Expenses.....	3,500,000
Nonschool Food	74,000,000
Special Milk Program	97,123,000
Commodities	313,700,000
Nutrition Training, Surveys	1,000,000
Federal Operating Expenses.	6,567,000
<u>FOOD STAMP PROGRAM</u>	2,500,000,000
<u>DIRECT DISTRIBUTION</u>	
Families.....	302,359,000
Institutions.....	27,197,000
Sec. 32 Operating Expenses.	7,964,000
<u>Nutrition Education</u>	51,560,000
<u>TOTAL, FOOD ASST. PROGRAMS</u>	<u>4,315,827,000</u>

FOOD SERVICE HANDBOOK TO BE TESTED

THE FIRST NATIONAL food service financial management system handbook for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and other USDA child feeding programs will be field tested in eight school districts.

The tests are to determine whether the system is fully responsive to the needs of the schools and whether it can better provide timely, uniform fiscal and program information to the administering State agencies, FNS Regional Offices, and ultimately, to the Department. The handbook is expected to undergo some modification based on the evaluation of the field test. Final publication is anticipated by March 1, 1973.

FNS FOOD PROGRAM EXPENDITURES FY 1972 Increased Over FY 1971 by:



THE TOTALS ARE (in millions of dollars):

	FY 1972...	FY 1971...		
	2,198	1,913	1,236	25
			996	24
				3,459
				2,933

1972 DATA ARE PRELIMINARY

Key Cooperators in 'Project Find'

STATE AND COUNTY administrators of food programs are now the key cooperators in Project FIND--a national drive to locate older Americans who need food help, and to get them the help they're entitled to. These agencies sign up those who are eligible and provide them with food or food stamps.

An explanation of available food programs was mailed in early August to some 28 million people on Social Security and Medicare mailing lists. It is estimated that 19 million of these are elderly. Those who believe they were eligible were invited to call on their local welfare office or to return a response card.

PEOPLE

JOHN J. RYAN, JR., is the new Director of FNS' Finance and Program Accounting Division. He was Director of the Budget

and Finance Division in USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

LENORA MORAGNE IS the new head of the Nutrition Education and Training Group in FNS' Nutrition and Technical Services Staff. Dr. Moragne has long been working at upgrading the eating habits of needy Americans. She has worked with welfare recipients in New York City and with the Head Start Program in Durham, N.C.

OFF PRESS

- "Food Stamps for You" (FNS-67) has been reprinted with updates on income eligibility standards and additional information on making change. This flip chart booklet is also available in Spanish, "Estampillas de Alimentos para la Familia" (FNS-67-S).

- "Food Stamp Fact Sheets" in Spanish: Allotments and Purchase Requirements; Work Registration; Eligibility Requirements; Fair Hearings; Meals on Wheels; Recipient Responsibility.

- "Food Stamp Counter-Points; A Manual for Cashiers" (PA-997). This companion publication to the guide for retailers and wholesalers serves as a useful training manual.

Single copies of above publications may be obtained from the Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

- "What's So Hard About Feeding Kids?" (FNS-68). An illustrated booklet describing a number of proven approaches to feeding children in schools with limited facilities through the National School Lunch Program.

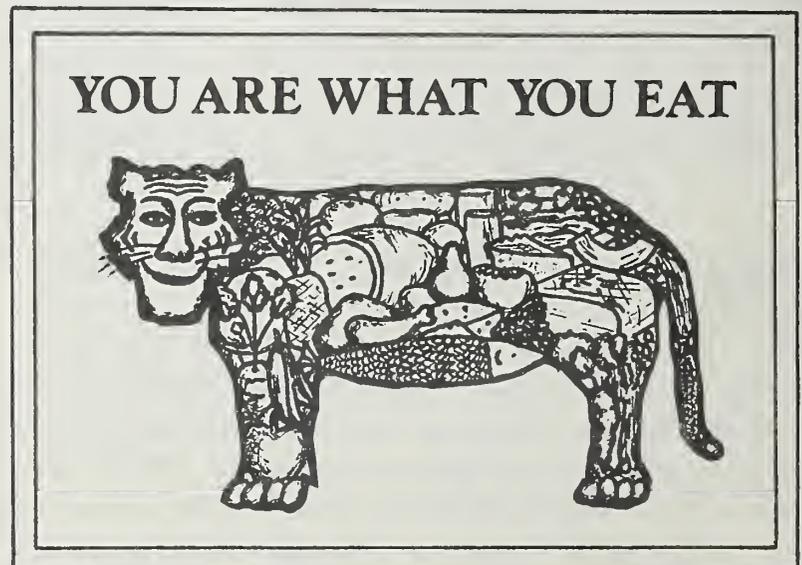
- "Type A for a Better Day" (FNS-4, revised). A 10½"x15" poster showing the kinds and amounts of basic foods required in Type A school lunches.

Copies of above are available for school lunch managers or others in charge of child feeding programs from their school lunch director, FNS Regional Offices, or from the Information Division, FNS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

- "FNS--the Work of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service." A series of 75 color slides and audio cassette, describing the programs of this agency--child nutrition, food distribution, and food stamp programs.

- Bulletin 780, "Program Evaluation: Food Stamps and Commodity Distribution in Rural Areas of Central Pennsylvania" by J. Patrick Madden and Marion Yoder, two Penn State agricultural economists.

- Final report of the ten-State nutrition survey, which was conducted by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare through contracts with State departments of health and university schools of medicine.



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE American School Food Service Association and FNS are planning activities for National School Lunch Week, October 8-14. This year's theme, "You Are What You Eat," will appear on the National School Lunch Week poster as a happy tiger. The tiger will also be featured on place mats, note pads, envelopes, and other materials which may be ordered from the ASFSA.