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Food and Nutrition

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FOOD PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO AID FLOOD VICTIMS

SINCE FLOODING BEGAN in Mississippi in mid-March, personnel from the FNS regional office in Atlanta, Ga., and from FNS field offices throughout Mississippi, have been on the scene assisting State agencies in disaster food assistance activities.

As of May 4, through the Federal-State food distribution program, some 65,000 pounds of USDA-donated foods have been released to the Salvation Army, Civil Defense and American Red Cross, for use in caring for flood victims housed temporarily in shelters. Altogether some 6,930 persons in shelters have been fed more than 38,822 meals during the Mississippi flood, with the aid of USDA-donated food provided by the Mississippi Department of Public Welfare from central warehouses at Jackson and Drew, Miss. An additional 11,182 persons were served with the aid of USDA-donated food distributed from Salvation Army vans.

At the request of the State, FNS diverted some 35,000 pounds of USDA-donated food from Alabama to the Jackson warehouse for special disaster use, to supplement food supplies already on hand.

Throughout the State, county welfare departments, assisted by FNS field personnel, have provided special food stamp program disaster aid from the onset of flooding, using the hardship provisions under the regular food stamp program. In addition, at the request of the State Welfare Commissioner,

FNS designated six of the flooded counties to receive emergency food stamp issuance under an emergency declaration.

As of May 4, assistance through the hardship provisions and the emergency procedures have provided disaster food stamp assistance totaling \$770,557 to some 28,462 persons in 7,214 families throughout the State.

A breakdown of this aid follows:

- Total under hardship provisions of the food stamp program: \$211,762 in food stamps issued to 7,700 persons in 1,892 families.
- Total under emergency declarations (six counties): \$558,795 in food stamps issued to 20,762 persons in 5,322 families.
- Cumulative total of all disaster aid through food stamps: \$770,557 issued to 28,462 persons in 7,214 families.

FNS ANNOUNCES SUMMER FEEDING REGULATIONS

USDA HAS ANNOUNCED amendments to regulations for the Special Summer Food Service Program for Children. The changes are to help sponsors of summer feeding programs better plan and carry out the feeding of needy youngsters during the summer months when school cafeterias are closed.

A proposal to revise the regulations

was announced by FNS on Feb. 20, with 30 days provided for public comment. Comments on the proposed amendments were received from 76 individuals and organizations, including two members of Congress.

Accordingly, USDA has changed the final regulation amendments to:

- Clarify the sponsor's overall financial and administrative responsibilities.
- Delete the proposal to approve some program sites for limited food service only. Instead, the regulations require that delivery, handling, storage, and service of meals at all sites meet local health standards.
- Permit the service of two meals and a supplement, in programs which provide organized, supervised activity for 8 or more hours.
- Increase the proposed standard and maximum reimbursement rates for the summer meal (an alternative to a regular full meal) from 20 to 25 cents and 40 to 48 cents, respectively.
- Extend the date by which applications must be received to get priority consideration for approval from April 1 to May 11.
- Further define the food components required in the regular meal and the supplement (snack) of the summer program, so that they clearly parallel the patterns of the year-'round program. The proposed new summer meal is included in the final amendments but its use will be optional.

Plans are already well underway for this year's program. FNS has issued handbooks for service institutions and on-site supervisors and has helped conduct training sessions at the regional office and State agency level.

In early March these offices were authorized to start approving applications for summer food service based on initial funding and operating guidelines, until the new regulations become effective.

HANDBOOKS FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS

"THE SITE HANDBOOK for Supervisors" and the "Addendum to the Sponsor Handbook" are now available to help sponsors and site personnel carry out final plans for their summer feeding programs.

Both the "Site Handbook" and "Addendum" are necessary guides to operating a summer program in line with the final regulation amendments issued on May 4. For copies, write: Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

POSTAL AGREEMENT FINALIZED

BASIC CONDITIONS UNDER which postal facilities can sell food stamps have been agreed upon by USDA and the U.S. Postal Service. Contracts for selling food coupons in post offices are established individually between the Postal Service and the State agency which administers the food stamp program.

The agreement defines audit responsibility and other procedural matters, limits Postal Service liability for cash and coupons, and provides for the use of a standard issuance fee by the Postal Service. State agencies have full responsibility for negotiating the contracts.

In an effort to provide convenient service to food stamp recipients, postal issuance will effectively supplement present issuance systems.

Postal Service issuance has been operating successfully on a trial basis in a dozen different parts of the country since 1971.

PEOPLE

JOSEPH R. WRIGHT, JR., former Acting Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs at the Department of Commerce, was recently named USDA's Assistant Secretary for Administration. Wright will be responsible for formulating and executing USDA's programs of personnel, budget, fiscal, management improvement, and other administrative services.

C. O. NEEL, JR., has been named director of the Commodity Distribution Division in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture by State Agriculture Commissioner Wendell P. Butler.

GORDAIN A. SIBILLE, former State director of local school systems services for the Louisiana Department of Education, has been named executive director of operations for the division of management research and finance with that agency. Ronald Carriere replaces him as State director of local school systems services.

RICHARD LYNG has been designated president of the American Meat Institute by AMI directors, who will formally elect

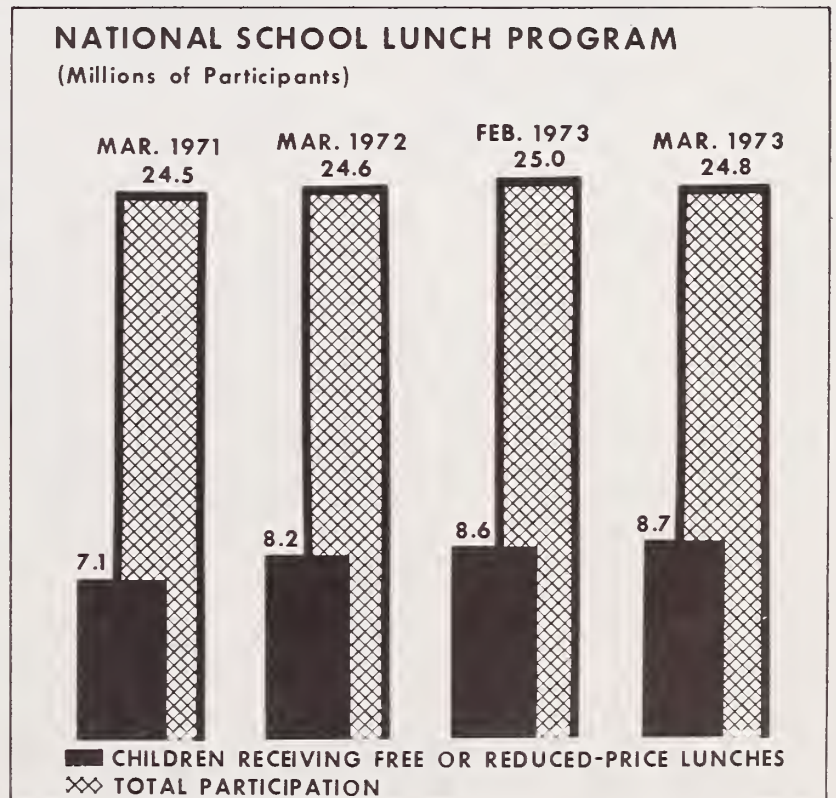
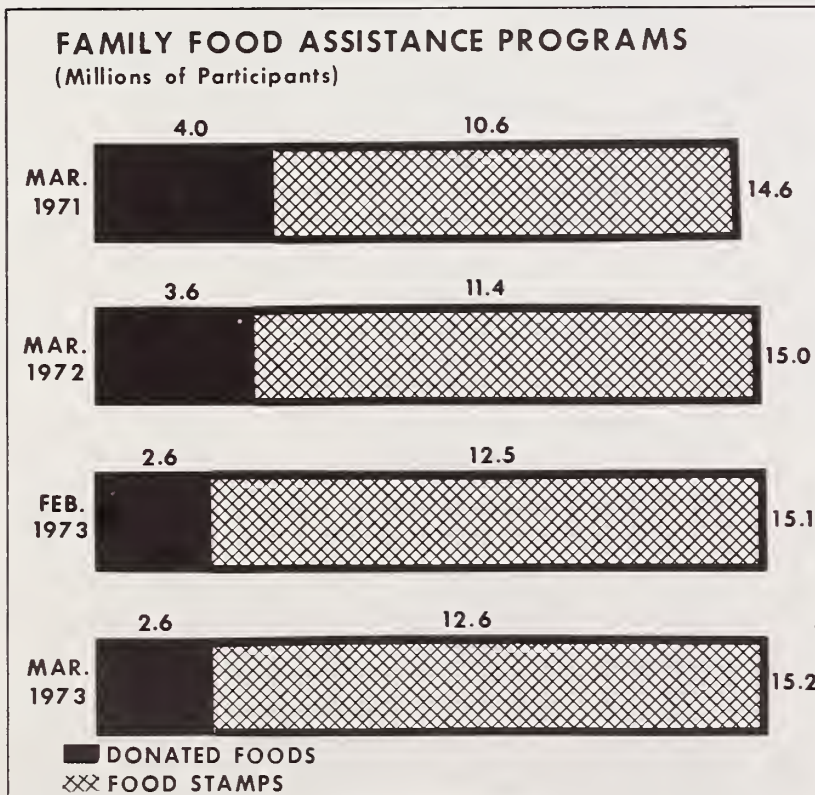
him at the September annual meeting in Chicago. Lyng served as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Consumer Services from Feb. 1969 to Jan. 1973.

SCHOOL LUNCH DIRECTOR HONORED

JUST TWO DAYS before her death, the School Food Services Director for the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., district was awarded a USDA Certificate of Appreciation for coordinating food assistance last summer for thousands of Hurricane Agnes flood victims.

Mrs. Eva D. Lipiec, who died on April 29, received the award for "efficiently and effectively" helping to provide 859,000 meals in the unflooded schools of her district, despite the fact that her own home was demolished by the storm.

FNS Administrator Edward J. Hekman presented the award on April 27 in Philadelphia at the annual convention of the Pennsylvania School Food Service Association. Mary Eby, Mrs. Lipiec's successor as President of the organization, accepted the certificate for Mrs. Lipiec.



"TEAM APPROACH" TO NUTRITION EDUCATION TO BE TESTED

USDA HAS AWARDED a grant to the Georgia Department of Education to develop coordinated training of teachers and school food service personnel in nutrition education for school-aged children. Four other States--Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee--will be cooperating in the project under the direction of the Georgia Department of Education. The grant of \$126,675 was made with funds authorized by the Child Nutrition Act.

The team approach to nutrition education--school food service worker and classroom teacher--is new in nutrition education. This project is designed to identify what teachers and school food service people need to know about nutrition education and how to train them to transfer this information.

The project has two parts--to identify abilities needed by the teacher and school food service personnel to teach nutrition to students from kindergarten through grade twelve, and to develop the training materials and methods based on these desired qualifications. The second part will be to pilot test this approach by training school food service personnel and teachers in each of the five states and evaluate the effectiveness of this approach to nutrition education.

WORKSHOP ENLISTS NEW SCHOOLS

EFFECTIVE ADVANCE PLANNING, publicity, and cooperation among sponsors resulted in a highly successful National School Lunch and Breakfast Program workshop for no-program private schools on April 6 in Pittsburgh.

One hundred school administrators representing 63 Catholic schools attended the session. They were from dioceses in Pittsburgh, neighboring areas of Pennsylvania, and Youngstown, Ohio.

The tightly structured agenda included film and slide presentations, equipment demonstrations, and a panel discussion by experts in the field of child feeding. By the day's end, nearly half of the schools indicated a readiness to inaugurate a food service program.

COUNTIES DESIGNATED FOR FOOD STAMPS

FOURTEEN COUNTIES IN 11 States were designated on May 10 to participate in the food stamp program by FNS Administrator Edward J. Hekman.

The counties are: Colbert, Henry (Ala.); Merced (Calif.); Caldwell (Ky.); Issaquena (Miss.); Lawrence (Mo.); Thurston (Nebr.); Clark, Washoe (Nev.); Coal (Okla.); Klamath, Tillamook (Oreg.); Allegheny (Va.); Kenosha (Wis.).

These are currently operating food distribution programs.

Clark and Washoe are the first counties in Nevada to be designated for the program; Delaware and New Hampshire are now the only States without a food stamp program.

LOCAL EFFORTS AID TYPHOID VICTIMS

DURING THE MARCH typhoid epidemic at the South Dade Labor Camp in Florida, an emergency certification unit was established at the camp to serve migrant families in need of food assistance. Staff from the Division of Family Services coordinated efforts with volunteer workers of the Red Cross, Dade County Community Action Agency, and the Protestant Social Services Program in Homestead to provide day care services and act as authorized representatives for migrant families unable to leave the camp.

A total of 70 households were certified and received food stamps. A great amount of credit is due the State and local agencies who quickly responded to the migrant families in this emergency.