

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Farm Service Agency

National Drought Policy Commission

AGENCY: Farm Service Agency, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Commission Meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Drought Policy Commission (Commission) shall conduct a thorough study and submit a report to the President and Congress on national drought policy. This notice announces a meeting to be held on April 19, 2000, and April 20 if necessary. The Commission will review public comments submitted in response to its draft report, as well as discuss and approve the content of the Executive Summary and final report. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The Commission will conduct a meeting on April 19, 2000, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and April 20, 2000, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., if necessary to complete its work, in the Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building, 12th and Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, D.C. All times are Eastern Daylight Time.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Leona Dittus, on 202-720-3168, Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, or Internet: leona.dittus@usda.gov, by COB April 12, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments and statements should be sent to Leona Dittus, Executive Director, National Drought Policy Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 6701-S, STOP 0501, Washington, D.C. 20250-0501.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leona Dittus (202) 720-3168; FAX (202) 720-9688; Internet: leona.dittus@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the Commission is to provide advice and recommendations to the

President and Congress on the creation of an integrated, coordinated Federal policy, designed to prepare for and respond to serious drought emergencies. Tasks for the Commission include developing recommendations that will (a) better integrate Federal laws and programs with ongoing State, local, and tribal programs, (b) improve public awareness of the need for drought mitigation, prevention, and response and (c) determine whether all Federal drought preparation and response programs should be consolidated under one existing Federal agency, and, if so, identify the agency.

The Commission's draft vision statement is of a well-informed, involved U. S. citizenry and its governments prepared for and capable of lessening the impacts of drought—consistently and timely. Drought policy should improve national security and foster economic prosperity, environmental quality, and social well being. It should also benefit future generations as well as our own.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on March 29, 2000.

Keith Kelly,

Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

[FR Doc. 00-8227 Filed 4-3-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Child Nutrition Programs—Income Eligibility Guidelines

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the Department's annual adjustments to the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be used in determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals or free milk for the period from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. These guidelines are used by schools, institutions, and facilities participating in the National School Lunch Program (and Commodity School Program), School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program for Children, Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program. The annual adjustments are required by section 9 of the National School Lunch Act. The guidelines are intended to

direct benefits to those children most in need and are revised annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert M. Eadie, Chief, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, FNS, USDA, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, or by phone at (703) 305-2620.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507), no new recordkeeping or reporting requirements have been included that are subject to approval from the Office of Management and Budget.

This action is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

These programs are listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.553, No. 10.555, No. 10.556, No. 10.558 and No. 10.559 and are subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, and the final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

Background

Pursuant to sections 9(b)(1) and 17(c)(4) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1) and 42 U.S.C. 1766(c)(4)), and sections 3(a)(6) and 4(e)(1)(A) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1772(a)(6) and 1773(e)(1)(A)), the Department annually issues the Income Eligibility Guidelines for free and reduced price meals for the National School Lunch Program (7 CFR part 210), the Commodity School Program (7 CFR part 210), School Breakfast Program (7 CFR part 220), Summer Food Service Program (7 CFR part 225) and Child and Adult Care Food Program (7 CFR part 226) and the guidelines for free milk in the Special Milk Program for Children (7 CFR part 215). These eligibility guidelines are based on the Federal income poverty guidelines and are stated by household size. The guidelines are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced price meals and free milk in

accordance with applicable program rules.

Definition of Income

"Income," as the term is used in this Notice, means income before any deductions such as income taxes, Social Security taxes, insurance premiums, charitable contributions and bonds. It includes the following: (1) Monetary compensation for services, including wages, salary, commissions or fees; (2) net income from nonfarm self-employment; (3) net income from farm self-employment; (4) Social Security; (5) dividends or interest on savings or bonds or income from estates or trusts; (6) net rental income; (7) public assistance or welfare payments; (8) unemployment compensation; (9) government civilian employee or military retirement, or pensions or veterans payments; (10) private

pensions or annuities; (11) alimony or child support payments; (12) regular contributions from persons not living in the household; (13) net royalties; and (14) other cash income. Other cash income would include cash amounts received or withdrawn from any source including savings, investments, trust accounts and other resources which would be available to pay the price of a child's meal.

"Income," as the term is used in this Notice, does not include any income or benefits received under any Federal programs which are excluded from consideration as income by any legislative prohibition. Furthermore, the value of meals or milk to children shall not be considered as income to their households for other benefit programs in accordance with the prohibitions in section 12(e) of the National School Lunch Act and section 11(b) of the

Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1760(e) and 1780(b)).

The Income Eligibility Guidelines

The following are the Income Eligibility Guidelines to be effective from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. The Department's guidelines for free meals and milk and reduced price meals were obtained by multiplying the year 2000 Federal income poverty guidelines by 1.30 and 1.85, respectively, and by rounding the result upward to the next whole dollar. Weekly and monthly guidelines were computed by dividing annual income by 52 and 12, respectively, and by rounding upward to the next whole dollar. The numbers reflected in this notice for a family of four represent an increase of 2.09% over the July 1999 numbers for a family of the same size.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
(Effective from July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001)

Household size	Federal Poverty Guidelines			Reduced Price Meals - 185%			Free Meals - 130%		
	Annual	Month	Week	Annual	Month	Week	Annual	Month	Week
	48 CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, GUAM AND TERRITORIES								
1.....	8,350	696	161	15,448	1,288	298	10,855	905	209
2.....	11,250	938	217	20,813	1,735	401	14,625	1,219	282
3.....	14,150	1,180	273	26,178	2,182	504	18,395	1,533	354
4.....	17,050	1,421	328	31,543	2,629	607	22,165	1,848	427
5.....	19,950	1,663	384	36,908	3,076	710	25,935	2,162	499
6.....	22,850	1,905	440	42,273	3,523	813	29,705	2,476	572
7.....	25,750	2,146	496	47,638	3,970	917	33,475	2,790	644
8.....	28,650	2,388	551	53,003	4,417	1,020	37,245	3,104	717
For each add'l family member add	+2,900	+242	+56	+5,365	+448	+104	+3,770	+315	+73
ALASKA									
1.....	10,430	870	201	19,296	1,608	372	13,559	1,130	261
2.....	14,060	1,172	271	26,011	2,168	501	18,278	1,524	352
3.....	17,690	1,475	341	32,727	2,728	630	22,997	1,917	443
4.....	21,320	1,777	410	39,442	3,287	759	27,716	2,310	533
5.....	24,950	2,080	480	46,158	3,847	888	32,435	2,703	624
6.....	28,580	2,382	550	52,873	4,407	1,017	37,154	3,097	715
7.....	32,210	2,685	620	59,589	4,966	1,146	41,873	3,490	806
8.....	35,840	2,987	690	66,304	5,526	1,276	46,592	3,883	896
For each add'l family member add	+3,630	+303	+70	+6,716	+560	+130	+4,719	+394	+91
HAWAII									
1.....	9,590	800	185	17,742	1,479	342	12,467	1,039	240
2.....	12,930	1,078	249	23,921	1,994	461	16,809	1,401	324
3.....	16,270	1,356	313	30,100	2,509	579	21,151	1,763	407
4.....	19,610	1,635	378	36,279	3,024	698	25,493	2,125	491
5.....	22,950	1,913	442	42,458	3,539	817	29,835	2,487	574
6.....	26,290	2,191	506	48,637	4,054	936	34,177	2,849	658
7.....	29,630	2,470	570	54,816	4,568	1,055	38,519	3,210	741
8.....	32,970	2,748	635	60,995	5,083	1,173	42,861	3,572	825
For each add'l family member add	+3,340	+279	+65	+6,179	+515	+119	+4,342	+362	+84

Authority: (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(1)).

Dated: March 27, 2000.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 00-8205 Filed 4-3-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-30-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 00-012N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Twenty-eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), are sponsoring a public meeting on April 17, 2000, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the Twenty-eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL), which will be held in Ottawa, Canada, May 9-12, 2000. The Under Secretary for Food Safety and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the Twenty-eighth Session of CCFL and to address items on the Agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2000, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 1409, Federal Office Building 8, 200 C Street SW, Washington, DC. (Metro Rail stop is Federal Center, SW.) To receive copies of the documents referenced in this notice, contact the FSIS Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/economic/esn/codex>. Send comments, in triplicate, to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket #00-012N. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Clerkin, Associate U.S. Manager for Codex, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: (202) 205-7760, Fax: (202) 720-3157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled.

The Codex Committee on Food Labelling drafts provisions on labeling applicable to all foods; considers, amends if necessary, and endorses specific provisions on labeling prepared by the Codex Committees drafting standards, codes of practice and guidelines; studies specific labeling problems assigned to it by the Commission, and studies problems associated with the advertisement of food with particular reference to claims and misleading descriptions.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

Agenda items will be described and discussed at the April 17, 2000, public meeting. Attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments.

The provisional agenda items to be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Matters referred by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees
3. Consideration of Labeling Provisions in Draft Codex Standards
4. Draft Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labeling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods (Livestock Production)
5. Recommendations for the Labeling of Foods Obtained through Biotechnology
6. Draft Amendment to the General Standard for the Labeling of Prepackaged Foods (Class Names)
7. Proposed Draft Amendment to the Guidelines on Nutrition Labeling

8. Proposed Draft Recommendations for the Use of Health Claims
9. Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Use of the Term "Vegetarian"
10. Other business:
 - Discussion Paper on Misleading Claims
 - Discussion Paper on Quantitative Ingredient Declaration

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Canadian Secretariat to the Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see **ADDRESSES**).

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and provide copies of this **Federal Register** publication in the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly FSIS Constituent Update, which is communicated via fax to over 300 organizations and individuals. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent fax list consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included.

Through these various channels, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. For more information and to be added to the constituent fax list, fax your request to the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC on March 30, 2000.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 00-8247 Filed 4-3-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P