

New Rules Adopted On Food Stamps

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced regulations to simplify administration, correct abuses and control costs in the Food Stamp Program. The regulations, proposed in February at the direction of President Ford, are expected to reduce overall program costs by more than \$1.2 billion a year, and achieve a more equitable distribution of benefits.

All major provisions of the proposed regulations are retained in the final rulemaking. However, a number of changes have been made in response to comments from state welfare agencies and the general public. USDA received over 2,700 individual letters.

The regulations adopted will: —Set a uniform national standard for income eligibility, based on the poverty guidelines prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget. The official poverty level for a family of four is an annual income of \$5,500. These poverty guidelines will not apply to households receiving public assistance or Supplemental Security Income, since these households are automatically eligible for food stamps.

The poverty guidelines by household size are as follows:

Household Size	Maximum Allowable Income Standards 48 States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico & Virgin Islands
1 person	\$233 per month
2 persons	308 per month
3 persons	383 per month
4 persons	458 per month
5 persons	533 per month
6 persons	608 per month
7 persons	683 per month
8 persons	758 per month
Each add. member	75 per month

The levels for Hawaii, Alaska and Guam are higher, in line with higher living costs in these areas.

—Replace the current system of itemized deductions from gross income with a standard deduction of \$100 per month. This means that a four-person household may have a gross income no higher than \$558 per month (\$6,700 a year) to qualify for food stamps. An additional \$25 a month will be deducted by households with one or more members age 65 or older.

—Establish a uniform purchase requirement. Each household would pay 30 percent of adjusted gross income for its food stamp allotment. Currently, the purchase requirement varies according to household size and income.

—Provide for a three-month retrospective accounting period. Eligibility would be based on income received during the three months prior to application for food stamps. This provision is designed to single out households in need of long-term food assistance. Under the present system, eligibility is figured by estimating income for future months.

—Require participating households, except certain households with stable incomes, to file monthly income reports. Stable households — those with no earned income, or with income sources limited to public assistance, Supplemental Security Income, Social Security payments or retirement benefits — will be required to report income changes only as they occur. These households were exempted in line with comments from state agencies and others, to avoid undue administrative and recipient hardship.

—Limit exclusions from income to loans, earnings by children under age 14, medical vendor payments, in-kind payments, and other exclusions mandated by law. The exclusions for loans and child earnings were reinstated to the final regulations in response to public comments.

—Exclude participation by minors living in households where no adult is legally responsible for their support. This provision, also revised in response to comments, makes clear that foster children are not excluded from the program.

—Strengthen current work registration provisions by requiring recipients to actively search for a job. Another change in the pro-

posal in response to comments restores the right of recipients to decline a job for health or safety reasons.

—Tighten accountability for coupon and cash collections. This

provision is intended to improve state control over the handling of cash and coupons.

The final rules were scheduled to be published in the Federal Register of May 7, 1976, and will be

effective upon publication. However, USDA has agreed to allow the states to phase implementation.

Provisions concerning the purchase requirement, standard deduction and income eligibility must

be put into effect for new applicants and subsequent certifications starting June 1. However, these provisions must be in effect for all certified households by September 1.

Implementation of the retrospective accounting, monthly reporting, accountability and all other provisions will start on September 1, and they must be in full effect by December 31.

Who DOES Have Lower Prices?

COMPARISON PROVES FOOD TOWN LOWEST

On April 29, 1976, a comparison shopping test was made in four of the leading super markets in Fayetteville, including A & P, Winn-Dixie, Big Star, and Big M. Forty-two items were selected at random and purchased in each of the four super markets and, excluding those items not available, a total of 160 items were bought. Each of these 160 prices were compared with FOOD TOWN'S every day shelf price and the results are printed below. Out of the 160 prices compared, FOOD TOWN was lowest or tied for lowest on 157 of them. If you're willing to pay less for groceries, then you will want to try this new FOOD TOWN on Bragg Boulevard. Even FOOD TOWN customers who have bought their groceries at the commissary before comment on how low FOOD TOWN'S prices are. Isn't it worth your while to make your own comparison? Then you'll agree FOOD TOWN does have the "Lowest Food Prices In North Carolina."



160 Grocery items were purchased... Food Town was lowest or tied for lowest on 157 out of the total of 160 items.

ITEM	FOOD TOWN	A&P	WINN DIXIE	BIG STAR	BIG M	ITEM	FOOD TOWN	A&P	WINN DIXIE	BIG STAR	BIG M
Dukes Mayonnaise QUART JAR	.89	1.19	1.05	1.05	.95	Carnation Slender 10-OZ CAN	.39	.53	.49	.45	3/100
Gerber Strain. Baby JAR	.09	.10	.10	.10	.11	Bisquick Mix 40-OZ BOX	.93	1.19	1.15	1.19	1.08
Similac Liquid 32-OZ CAN	.82	.89	.91	.91	.85	Dream Whip Mix 6-OZ BOX	.99	NA	1.17	1.17	1.07
Crisco Shortening 3-LB CAN	1.28	1.45	1.45	1.38	1.39	Mazola Corn Oil 32-OZ BOTTLE	1.39	1.53	1.45	1.44	1.47
Crisco Oil 24-OZ BOTTLE	.83	.77	.87	.87	.88	Eagle Brand Milk 14-OZ CAN	.59	.59	.65	.63	.61
Kraft BBQ Sauce 18-OZ BOTTLE	.49	.73	.63	.73	.51	Quaker Quick Oats 42-OZ BOX	.89	1.09	1.07	1.07	.97
Log Cabin Syrup 24-OZ BOTTLE	1.15	1.23	1.23	1.22	1.23	Regular Kotex 12-C1 BOX	.67	.79	.77	.77	.77
Instant Tang 27-OZ JAR	1.59	1.85	1.73	1.73	1.69	Ivory Liquid 32-OZ BOTTLE	1.19	1.29	1.28	1.28	1.19
V-8 Cocktail 46-OZ CAN	.59	.67	.67	.67	.59	Kellogg Frost. Flakes 15-OZ BOX	.70	.85	.85	.85	.79
Cheerios Cereal 15-OZ BOX	.77	.87	.87	.87	.85	Post FORTIFIED OAT Flakes 12-OZ BOX	.65	.79	.79	.79	.77
Post Sugar Crisp 12-OZ BOX	.70	.87	.87	.86	.83	Gerber Baby Cereal 8-OZ BOX	.29	.36	.37	.37	.35
Lipton Tea Bags 100-C1 BOX	1.27	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.39	Daytime Pampers 30-C1 BOX	2.13	2.29	2.29	2.29	2.19
Nestle Choc. Quik 2-LB BOX	1.69	1.99	1.69	NA*	1.75	Carnation Dry Milk 10-OZ BOX	2.49	2.69	2.69	2.68	2.69
Hi-C Drinks 46-OZ CAN	.43	.49	.55	.43	.47	Formula 409 22-OZ BOTTLE	.85	.95	.99	.99	.93
Jell-O Gelatin 3-OZ BOX	.18	.21	.21	.21	.19	Ken-L-Ration Dog 6-CAN PACK	1.17	1.29	1.29	1.17	1.32
DINTY MOORE Beef Stew 24-OZ CAN	.87	.99	.97	.97	.94	Lux Liquid 22-OZ BOTTLE	.83	.89	.88	.88	.84
CHEF BOY AR-DEE Cheese Pizza 15 1/2-OZ BOX	.77	.95	.89	.85	.79	Lemon Pledge 14-OZ CAN	1.52	1.59	1.69	1.64	1.55
Toast-em Pop-ups 10 1/2-OZ BOX	.45	NA	NA	.57	.57	Liquid Sucaryl 12-OZ BOTTLE	1.25	NA	1.49	NA	NA
Armour's Treet 12-OZ CAN	.89	1.15	.99	.88	.99	GROCERY TOTALS EXCLUDING TAX		39.41	40.88	37.80	38.70
Camp. Tomato Soup NO. 1 CAN	.14	.16	.19	.14	.16	FOOD TOWN'S TOTAL		34.04	36.18	33.73	35.92
Comet LONG GRAIN Rice 42-OZ BOX	.93	1.09	NA	.99	.97	AT FOOD TOWN YOU SAVE		\$5.37	\$4.70	\$4.07	\$2.78
Luck's Pinto Beans 303 CAN	.32	3/100	.37	.32	3/100						
YAH CAMP Pork & Beans 16-OZ CAN	.28	3/100	.34	.29	.32						
Hershey's Cocoa 1-LB BOX	1.22	1.49	1.29	1.33	1.35						

*NA - NOT AVAILABLE

The totals tell the truth!

YOU Compare & You'll Agree: Food Town DOES Have LFPINC

Faircloth Reunion Sunday, May 16

The annual Faircloth and friends reunion will be Sunday, May 16 at Ephesus Baptist Church in Arabia. Food and tea should be brought for a lunch set for 1 P.M. Entertainment will be provided by the singing Christianaires of Fayetteville. All relatives and friends are invited to attend.

3315 BRAGG BOULEVARD IN FAYETTEVILLE



OPEN MON. THRU SAT. 8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 P.M.