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Agricultural Outlook Forum
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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USDA Food Plans

Mark Lino



USDA Food Plans

Mark Lino, PhD

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
U.S. Department of Agriculture





For over 100 years, USDA has prepared guides for selecting nutritious diets at home at different cost levels

USDA Food Plans

- **Thrifty**
- **Low-Cost**
- **Moderate-Cost**
- **Liberal**



Thrifty Food Plan

- Provides a healthy, minimal-cost meal plan that shows how a nutritious diet can be achieved with limited resources
- Used as basis for SNAP (food stamp) allotments
- 1 in 7 people receive SNAP





Low-Cost and Moderate-Cost Food Plans

- Provide healthy meal plans at 2nd and 3rd quartiles of food spending
- 30% and 63% higher cost than the Thrifty
- Used by bankruptcy courts (1.5 million people), to set alimony and child support payments



Liberal Food Plan

- Provides a healthy meal plan at 4th quartile of food spending
- Double the cost of the Thrifty
- Used by DoD to set Basic Allowance for Subsistence (food allowance) for 1.4 million service members





Dietary Standards of Food Plans

- 1997-2005 Dietary Reference Intakes (e.g. RDAs for vitamins)
- 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (e.g. saturated fat and cholesterol recommendations)
- 2005 USDA Food Guidance System intakes (e.g. fruit and vegetable recommendations)



Food Plans Do Not Contain

- Food away from home
- Dietary supplements
- Alcohol





Food Plan Market Baskets

- Each plan has 15 market baskets (for 15 age-gender groups) specifying the type and quantity of foods (29 food groups) that people could consume at home to obtain a nutritious diet
- All four plans represent nutritious diets at different cost levels
- Foods in plans change, more expensive healthy foods





Age-Gender Groups

1 year old

2-3 year old

4-5 year old

6-8 year old

9-11 year old

12-13 year old female

12-13 year old male

14-18 year old female

14-18 year old male

19-50 year old female

19-50 year old male

51-70 year old female

51-70 year old male

71+ year old female

71+year old male



Foods/Food Groups (examples)

- **Grains:** whole-grain breads, rice, and pasta; whole-grain cereals; non-whole-grain breads, cereal, rice, pasta, and snacks
- **Vegetables:** potato products; dark-green; orange; canned and dry beans
- **Fruits:** whole fruits; fruits juices
- **Milk Products:** whole milk and yogurt; lower fat and fat-free milk and yogurt; cheese
- **Meat and Beans:** red meat; poultry; fish; nuts and nut butters; eggs
- **Other Foods:** gravies and sauces; coffee and tea; soft drinks; sugars and candies; soups



Example: Thrifty Food Plan for Male, Age 19-50

- Weekly cost (Dec. 2010): \$46.80
- Market Basket:
 - 2.8 lbs of whole-grain breads, rice, and pasta
 - 2.5 lbs of potatoes
 - 1.2 lbs of dark-green vegetables
 - 6.7 lbs of whole fruits
 - 10.8 lbs of lower fat and fat-free milk and yogurt
 - 2.6 lbs of poultry
 - .08 lbs of sugars and candies, etc.



Food Plan Cost Updates

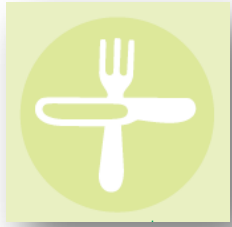
- Each Plan updated monthly using Consumer Price Indexes
- Indexes for each food group
- Cost of Plans increasing at low rate in past year (<1.0%)



Weekly Cost of Food Plans for a Family of Four* (Dec. 2010)

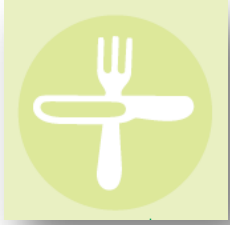
- Thrifty: \$135.60
- Low-Cost: \$176.60
- Moderate-Cost: \$221.00
- Liberal: \$268.50

* Husband/wife + two children



USDA Periodically Updates Food Plan Market Baskets

- To reflect latest dietary standards
- To reflect latest food consumption trends and food prices

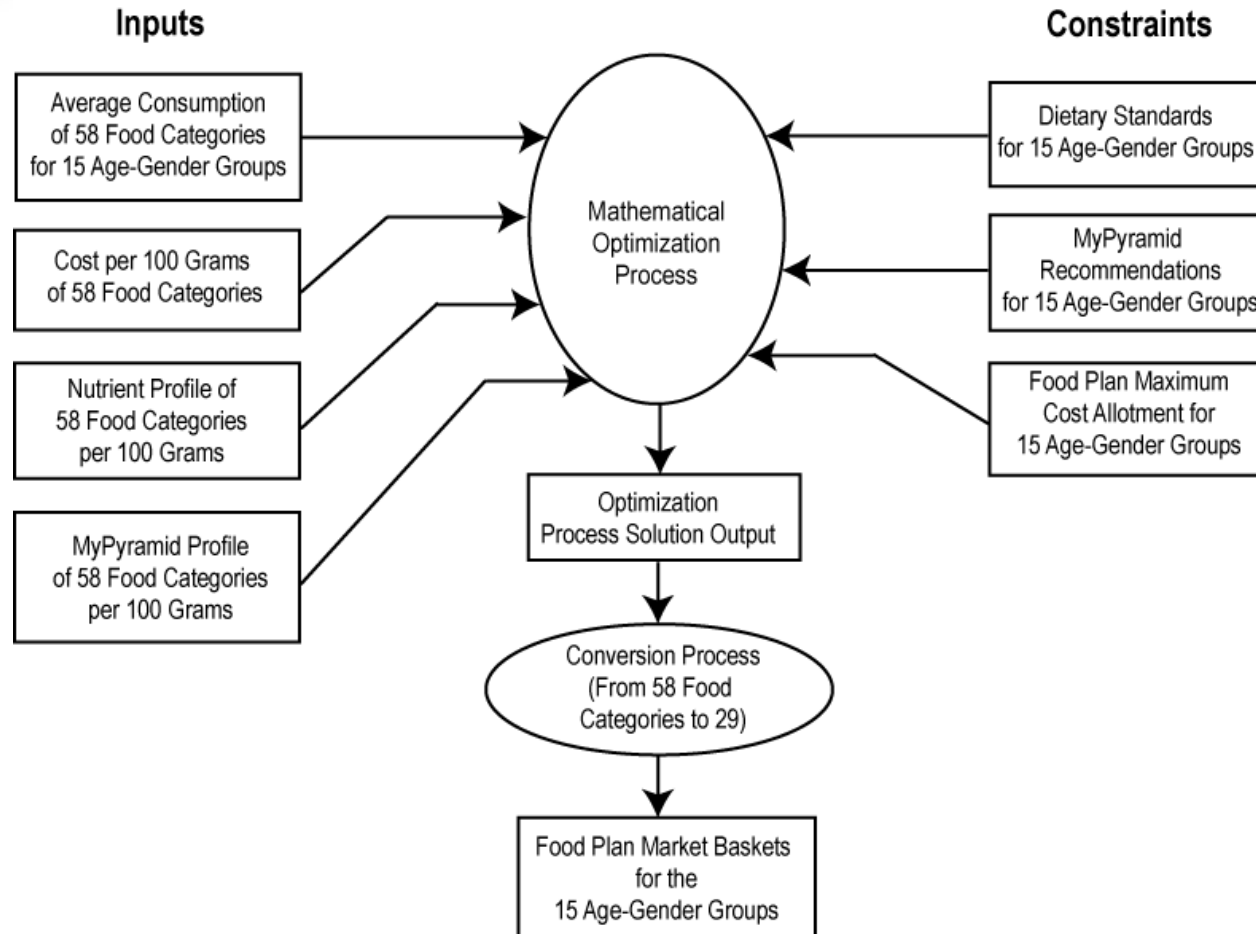


Data Current Food Plans Based on

- 2001-02 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: contains food consumption and nutrient content of food information
- 2001-02 Food Prices Database: based on ACNielsen Homescan data



Model





Food Plan Market Baskets Meet Dietary Recommendations for

- Vitamins A, C; calcium; iron; folate, etc.
- Total and saturated fat; cholesterol
- USDA Food Guidance System intakes
(grain, vegetable, fruit, milk, and meat and
bean intake)



But, Food Plan Market Baskets Do Not Meet Dietary Recommendations for

- Vitamin E and Potassium: market baskets meet at least 63% of recommendations; meeting recommendations would require major changes from current consumption
- Sodium: market basket limited to no more than current consumption; meeting recommendation would require major changes in food manufacturing practices



Low-Cost Food Plan Market Basket vs. Current Consumption

Difference in lbs. of food per week

Grains	+20%
Vegetables	+116%
Fruits	+157%
Milk products	+131%
Meat and beans	0%
Other foods (fats, oils, sweets)	-58%



Eating the Thrifty Way

<http://recipefinder.nal.usda.gov/index.php>

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

SNAP-Ed Connection

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Recipes

Recipe Finder

[En Español](#)
We invite you to search the database of recipes submitted by nutrition and health professionals and organizations. Nutrition educators in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other FNS nutrition assistance programs and their partners are encouraged to use the database to support their nutrition education messages.

- [About the Recipe Finder Database](#)
- [Recipe Review Criteria](#)
- [Add a Recipe](#)
- [Rate a Recipe](#)
- [Questions and Answers about Recipe Finder Cost Data](#)
- [Food Demonstration Tips](#)
- [Tips For Involving Children In The Kitchen](#)
- [Food Safety Tips](#)
- [MyPyramid.gov](#)

[View Shopping List](#)

Search by ingredients:

Having trouble finding a recipe by ingredient? [View a list of ingredients](#)

More search options:

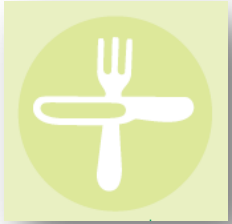
Search by recipe name:

Browse all recipes alphabetically
Browse all recipes by ratings
Browse all recipes by author

Search by the following categories:
Choose a search item from the categories below (limit one each) then use the **search** button **at the bottom of the page** to view the results.

Nutrition Education Topic:

Eat Calcium Rich Food Eat More Fruits and Vegetables
 Eat Whole Grains Eat Less Saturated Fats, Trans Fats and Cholesterol



May Search by

- Menu item (e.g. main dish, soup, etc.)
- Audience (e.g. Hispanic, older adults, etc.)
- Ingredients
- Cost (all low-cost recipes)
- Cooking time



Recipe Criteria

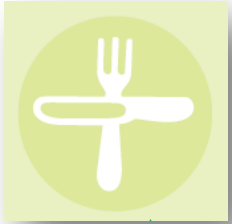
- Submitted by programs receiving USDA funding
- Reviewed by dietitians
- Compatible with Dietary Guidelines
- Use low-cost, readily available ingredients
- Easy directions



Future Plans

New Dietary Standards of Food Plans

- 1997-2010 Dietary Reference Intakes
- 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- 2010 USDA Food Guidance System intakes



Future Plans

- Update Food Plans with 2007-08 National Health and Nutrition Examination data and 2007-08 Food Prices data
- Cost targets of the Plans will not change



Future Plans

- Revise and add to Recipe Finder Database



For More Information

www.cnpp.usda.gov

The screenshot shows the homepage of the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. At the top left is the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion". At the top right is the OMB Number 0584-0535. Below the header is a colorful banner with various food and nutrition icons. A navigation bar contains links for Home, About Us, News & Media, Publications, and Contact Us. The main content area is divided into several sections: a search bar on the left, a "Browse by Subject" list, a "Spotlights" section with four featured articles, and an "In the News" section on the right. The "Spotlights" section includes articles about MyPyramid, MyFood-a-pedia, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and the Food Planner. The "In the News" section lists recent news items from January and October 2010.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

OMB Number 0584-0535

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Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

Improving the nutrition and well-being of Americans

The USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) works to improve the health and well-being of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers. CNPP is an agency of USDA's Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

Spotlights

-  MyPyramid replaced the Food Guide Pyramid in 2005 (En Español)
-  MyFood-a-pedia provides quick access to food groups, calories, & comparisons
-  The Dietary Guidelines for Americans give the basics for healthy eating
-  The Food Planner helps you reach your personal goals
-  Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food: Nutrition from farm to table
-  Try out the Cost of Raising a Child Calculator

In the News

- January 31, 2010.** Washington DC: The Secretaries of USDA and HHS release the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010*.
- October 15, 2010.** Alexandria, VA: Written comments submitted on the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's report are now online.
- September 29, 2010.** Washington, DC: Secretary Tom Vilsack announces the winners of the Apps for Healthy Kids competition — a part of the First Lady's Let's Move! campaign.

usda.gov/open

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