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The Role of Nutrition Programs in Agriculture: From Tractor to Table

Jennifer Hatcher

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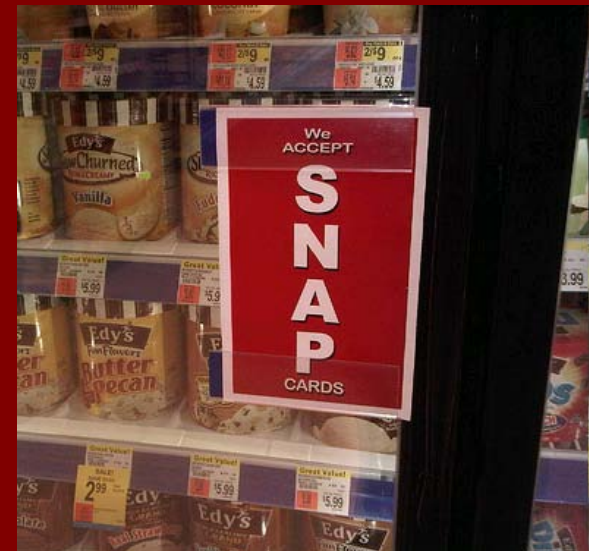
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SNAP At A Glance

- Dramatic growth in the program: 1 in 16 on the program in January 2001 and 1 in 7 today
- 43.5 million Americans received SNAP benefits in November 2010
- An increase of 5.4 million participants from November 2009
- An increase of 26.6 million from July 2000
- From October 2010 to November 2010, SNAP participation increased 14.2%



Retailers



- Top Issue: spread issuance out over 20 days per month
 - Benefits: fresher product, more selection, less crowded, able to distribute jobs for employees over a month instead of a week
 - AK, ID, NV, NH, ND, OK, RI, SD, VT, VA issue all benefits on one day
 - Only MO and NM use the full 20 days
- EBT for SNAP transactions has had positive results for customers, merchants, USDA and state agencies
- Excited about the possibilities for WIC EBT



WIC & SNAP Choice

- WIC has a very specific list of eligible products and in spite of more than 10 years of efforts there is still no national UPC database of eligible products flagged by state
- Developing a list is not a simple project
- Some want to limit what customers can purchase with SNAP benefits. Doing this on a state by state basis would be a disaster
- The only way to administer limitations would be with a real time national UPC database for SNAP benefits. This is much more expansive than the WIC products list both in terms of numbers of products from 500 to 20,000+ and also number of updates. Most of the WIC updates are done on an annual basis. SNAP would have to be weekly.

Questions?

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