Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program

Final Report
Fiscal 2005 Activities

Economic Research for a Healthy, Well-Nourished America
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Since 1998, Congress has provided funds to USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) to study and evaluate the Nation’s domestic food and nutrition assistance programs, including the Food Stamp Program, the child nutrition programs, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC). ERS established the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program (FANRP) to carry out this activity.

Since its establishment, FANRP has become the premier source of food and nutrition assistance research in the United States. FANRP has supported research on a wide range of food and nutrition assistance topics, resulting in over 500 publications. FANRP has also enhanced national surveys by adding a food assistance dimension and broadened the participation of social science and nutrition science scholars in food assistance and nutrition policy issues.

This report provides a summary of FANRP: Chapter 1 provides a general overview of the program, including its goals and principles; chapter 2 focuses on the FANRP activities of fiscal 2005 (October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005); chapter 3 presents a list of all FANRP-sponsored publications released in fiscal 2005; and chapter 4 lists all FANRP-sponsored publications released in previous fiscal years.

Program at a Glance

FANRP’s research on the food and nutrition assistance programs is designed to meet the critical needs of USDA, Congress, program managers, program participants, the research community, and the public at large. The three perennial program themes of FANRP are as follows:

• Diet and Nutritional Outcomes—Studies how the programs enhance access to and choices of palatable, nutritious, and healthy diets.

• Food Program Targeting and Delivery—Gauges the success of programs aimed at needy, at-risk population groups and examines program gaps and overlaps; differences between rural and urban delivery; outreach; waste, fraud, and abuse; commodity procurement and distribution; public and private partnerships; and alternative ways to deliver benefits.

• Program Dynamics and Administration—Focuses on how program needs change with local labor market conditions, economic growth, recession, and inflation in food prices and the general economy and how changing State welfare programs interact with food and nutrition programs.

Within these general themes, priority areas of research are selected annually. In developing the research priorities, FANRP works closely with USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the agency responsible for administering the Department’s food assistance and nutrition programs. FANRP also seeks input from a broad constituency of policy officials, researchers, practitioners, advocates, industry groups, and service providers.

In conjunction with these activities, FANRP sponsors an annual roundtable discussion, open to the public, to identify crucial research and information needs that would support food assistance and nutrition programs and to ensure the policy- and program-relevance of the annual research agenda.1

large research capacity, including the agency’s internal research capital and specialized knowledge base.

At the same time, FANRP funds extramural research, often conducted jointly with ERS staff, that draws upon the multidisciplinary expertise of outside researchers and the resources of such institutions as the National Academy of Science, National Science Foundation, Urban Institute, RAND, and numerous universities across the country.2 FANRP funds extramural projects through competitive contracts and through a tightly run peer review process for awarding competitive grants and cooperative agreements. Peer reviewers include experts from academia, government, and the private sector.

FANRP also sponsors a Small Grants Program to stimulate new and innovative research on food assistance and nutrition issues and to broaden the participation of social science scholars in these issues.3 Findings resulting from both intramural and extramural research are widely disseminated in accordance with FANRP principles.

**Research Mission and Goal**

Food assistance and nutrition programs receive substantial Federal funding and affect the daily lives of millions of Americans. In fiscal 2004, monthly participation in the Food Stamp Program averaged 23.9 million Americans, at an annual cost of about $27.1 billion. On a typical school day, some 8.9 million children participated in the School Breakfast Program and 29.0 million children participated in the National School Lunch Program, which together cost $9.4 billion. On average, WIC served 7.9 million women, infants, and children each month, at an annual cost of $4.9 billion. One in five Americans participates in at least one of USDA’s food and nutrition assistance programs during the year. Expenditures for all of USDA’s food and nutrition assistance programs totaled $46.1 billion in fiscal 2004.

Given the significance of the food and nutrition assistance programs, it is important that FANRP provides objective, scientifically rigorous studies and evaluations. “Economic Research for a Healthy, Well-Nourished America” is our research mission. Our goal is a high-quality, multidisciplinary program that focuses on today’s problems while addressing tomorrow’s issues.

**Program Principles**

The program principles behind FANRP ensure the reliability and usefulness of the research.

- Research that meets the needs of all stakeholders—program participants, USDA, Congress, and the public.
- Integrated, comprehensive program that conducts research in the broader context of the current and future economic and social environments.
- Broad array of public and private entities directly involved in the research, evaluation, and review efforts.
- Integration of ERS staff expertise in the development, implementation, and accomplishment of research projects.
- Scientifically rigorous studies and evaluations with verifiable and unbiased results.
- Rigorous internal and external review of research results.
- Public availability of data.
- Wide distribution of research findings.
- Development and maintenance of continuous data sets.

**FANRP Key Accomplishments**

Since FANRP’s beginning in 1998, FANRP research activities have covered a wide range. This section describes some of FANRP’s key accomplishments, in the areas of food assistance and nutrition research, data development, expanding the research base, and research dissemination.

**Food Assistance and Nutrition Research**

FANRP has developed a multifaceted research plan to address the needs of diverse groups of stakeholders that has resulted in an extensive portfolio of successful research projects. These projects have expanded understanding on a wide range of food and nutrition assistance issues, including diet and nutritional outcomes, food...
program targeting and delivery, program dynamics and administration, and program interactions.

**Diet and Nutritional Outcomes**

USDA’s food and nutrition assistance programs share the main goal of ensuring the health of vulnerable Americans by providing access to a nutritionally adequate diet. In fiscal 2005, FANRP released a landmark report that provides the most systematic and comprehensive assessment to date of published research on the impact of the food and nutrition assistance programs on participants’ nutrition and health (Fox, et al., October 2004). The research team reviewed and synthesized research from over 300 publications that examined the impact of program participation on a number of outcomes. The outcomes included household nutrient availability, dietary intake, medical biomarkers of nutrition status, food expenditures, food security, birth outcomes, breastfeeding behaviors, immunization rates, use and cost of health care services, and selected nonhealth outcomes, such as academic achievement and school performance (children) and social isolation (elderly).

FANRP plays an important role in advancing understanding of the economic factors and behaviors that affect obesity—a national epidemic that disproportionately affects the poor. One FANRP report provided a summary of papers from an ERS workshop that looked at the leading health economics research on the causes and consequences of obesity (Philipson, et al., 2004).

Another much-publicized FANRP-funded study quantified the effect of maternal obesity on preschooler obesity (Whitaker, 2004). The study found that maternal obesity in early pregnancy more than doubles a child’s risk of obesity at ages 2-4. As a result of this study, a new nutrition risk criterion—“at risk of becoming overweight”—was added to the allowable criteria used to establish WIC program eligibility. The new criterion makes low-income children with obese parents at risk of becoming overweight and, therefore, eligible for WIC.

FANRP also plays a major role in Federal research on food security and hunger in the United States. To inform policymakers and the public about the extent to which U.S. households consistently have economic access to enough food, FANRP publishes an annual statistical report on household food security in the United States (Nord et al., 2004). The report and its underlying data are widely used by government agencies, the media, and advocacy groups to monitor the extent of food insecurity in the U.S., progress toward national objectives, and performance of USDA’s food assistance programs.

**Program Targeting and Delivery**

Food Stamp Program caseload declined dramatically in the late 1990s, a period characterized by an unusually strong economy and major changes in the public assistance landscape following the welfare reform legislation of 1996. The decline led policymakers and analysts to focus on the broad question of what factors influence Food Stamp Program participation, including the role of local food stamp office policies and practices in encouraging or deterring households’ participation decisions. FANRP recently sponsored a national study of Food Stamp Program accessibility at the local office level. The study collected information on the policies and practices in 109 local food stamp offices, the characteristics of participant and nonparticipant households in surrounding areas, and the reasons that some eligible households do not participate in the Food Stamp Program (Bartlett et al., 2004; Bartlett and Burstein, 2004; and Gabor at al., 2003).

In 2005, FANRP evaluated USDA’s Elderly Nutrition Demonstrations—six projects aimed at testing ways to increase Food Stamp Program participation among eligible elderly individuals (Cody and Ohls, 2005). Historically, low-income elderly participate in the Food Stamp Program at relatively low rates. Without adequate food assistance, the nutritional needs of the low-income elderly may go unmet. This study evaluated each demonstration’s ability to increase participation among eligible elderly individuals.

To focus benefits from the Child and Adult Care Food Program more narrowly on low-income children, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 established a two-tiered structure of meal reimbursement rates for family child care homes. The Act applied higher rates to homes in low-income areas or operated by low-income people. In a report to Congress, FANRP assessed the impact that the new tiered meal reimbursements have had on sponsoring organizations, participating and dropout homes, and children cared for by participating homes (Hamilton et al., March 2002a).

**Program Dynamics and Administration**

An essential objective of FANRP is to provide research to policymakers that improves program operations.
One FANRP study examined the prevalence of direct certification of children for school meals, its implementation methods, and its effects on program access and integrity (Gleason et al., October 2003b). Direct certification is a procedure whereby school districts use information from State welfare or food stamp offices to certify children to receive free meals instead of requiring families to fill out applications. It was designed primarily to improve National School Lunch Program access and administrative efficiency.

Congressionally mandated studies completed by FANRP have been particularly instrumental in informing policy decisions on program dynamics and administrative issues. For example, FANRP provided an evaluation of the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program—a program established by the 2002 Farm Bill to promote fresh fruit and vegetable consumption among the Nation’s schoolchildren (Buzby et al., 2003). The intent of the pilot was to determine the feasibility of such a program and its success as determined by the students’ interest in participating. Results from this study led to the program being continued and expanded.

Another congressionally mandated study assessed the impact of WIC cost-containment practices used by States to reduce food costs (Kirlin et al., February 2003). The WIC program provides both nutrition education and supplemental foods containing nutrients that nutrition research has determined to be lacking in the diets of the program’s target population. To ensure the best use of available funds and provide benefits to all eligible individuals, WIC State agencies have implemented practices to reduce the cost of food packages with these prescribed foods. The study assessed such impacts as program participation, food package costs, administrative costs, and participant satisfaction with the prescribed foods.

**Program Interactions**

The economic impacts of food assistance programs often extend beyond program participants. For example, WIC purchases over half of all infant formula sold in the United States. Because of its buying power, WIC gets large discounts in the form of rebates from infant formula manufacturers. Congress expressed concern about the possible effects of WIC on the price paid by non-WIC consumers of infant formula. Based on the most comprehensive national study ever of retail infant formula prices, FANRP research found that WIC and its rebate program modestly raised the supermarket price of infant formula but that lower priced infant formulas are available to non-WIC consumers in most areas of the country (Oliveira et al., 2004).

Food assistance programs also have economic effects on agriculture and the general economy because they generate demand for food and farm products. ERS has estimated this relationship, and the work has been particularly useful to Congress. In addition, food assistance programs provide an “in-kind” income support for low-income people that automatically expands during recessions and contracts during economic growth. FANRP research has shown that a 1-percentage-point increase in the unemployment rate results in about 700,000 more food stamp recipients during the first year and about 1.3 million more in the long run.4 This automatic response helps to stabilize the overall economy and to direct Federal spending to areas most in need. FANRP’s economic perspective has brought attention to this vital relationship and its budgetary implications for USDA.

**Data Development**

FANRP places a high priority on data development because data sustain the program’s research on food assistance programs and the environment in which they operate. Investments in new and ongoing data collections provide a critical foundation for addressing new and emerging food assistance issues. FANRP funding has enhanced food assistance data collection in a number of nationwide surveys. In 1998, FANRP assumed sponsorship of the annual Food Security Supplement to the Census Bureau’s Current Population Survey. The supplement provides the data used to develop national statistics on food insecurity and hunger.

FANRP provides funding for the U.S. Department of Education’s Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies (ECLS), which are made up of two cohorts that provide national data on children’s status at birth and at various points thereafter through the fifth grade. Data from the ECLS are being used to test hypotheses about the effects of food assistance programs on a range of issues, including children’s development, school performance, and obesity.

FANRP also supports the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which collects information about the health and diet of Americans.

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4More detailed information can be found at http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/GeneralEconomy/impact.htm.
FANRP has developed several electronic data products for public use. The Food Stamp Program Map Machine is an interactive web-based mapping utility that illustrates program participation and benefit levels down to the county level (http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodstamps/). The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Map Machine, an Internet-based mapping utility that profiles SFSP sites by detailing characteristics of both the Census tract in which they exist and neighboring schools, was developed to help target potential Summer Food Service Program expansion efforts (http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/SFSP/). This interactive mapping utility integrates three different types of information—Census data, program administrative data, and data on public elementary and secondary schools—and provides visual displays of SFSP sponsors and sites in geographic relation to concentrated areas of child poverty.

Expanding the Research Base

FANRP uses two mechanisms to promote research from a broad arena—the Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program and the Small Grants Program.

The Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program

This program awards grants and cooperative agreements up to $300,000. The program is announced publicly via the ERS website, ERS e-mail updates, and postings on various listservs (e-mail-based discussion forums). The proposal evaluation process includes peer review panels consisting of experts from academia, government, and the private sector. In addition to reviewer’s comments, FANRP’s selection process considers coverage of priority research areas, overlap between proposals and ongoing projects, program needs, potential benefits from research collaborations on particular projects, and availability of funding. FANRP’s competitive grants and cooperative agreements program, with a description of the application process, typically is announced in mid-March of each year. The deadline for submission of proposals is generally in late May, and the awards are announced in mid-October.

The Small Grants Program

This program seeks to stimulate new and innovative research on food assistance and nutrition issues and broaden the participation of social science scholars in these issues. Small grants last for 1 year; most are in the range of $20,000-$40,000. Funded by ERS, the Small Grants Program is administered through selected universities and their associated research institutes located at five sites. Each of the five institutions takes a different aspect of food assistance, nutrition, or subgroup of recipients as its primary focus. The five institutions and their area of focus are as follows:

The Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago—Interactions between food assistance and other welfare programs and links between the macroeconomy and food assistance.

Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin—Understanding the relationships among the food assistance safety net, poverty, and well-being.

The American Indian Studies Program at the University of Arizona—the relationship between family poverty and food assistance programs among Native Americans.

The Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State—the relationship between food assistance and rural people, families, and communities in the South.

The Department of Nutrition at the University of California, Davis—the impact of food assistance programs on nutritional risk indicators (clinical, anthropometric, biochemical, and dietary), food purchasing practices, and food insecurity.

Research Dissemination

FANRP uses different vehicles to disseminate research findings to diverse audiences. ERS-produced reports are the primary vehicle used to showcase FANRP research. ERS publishes an array of products for a variety of purposes and audiences. In 2005, ERS revamped their publication series. Economic Research Reports (ERRs) are a departmental series available in both paper and electronic copy. Economic Research Reports (ERRs) are a departmental series available in both paper and electronic copy. These technical or semi-technical reports present original economic analysis, findings, and implications primarily for public decisionmakers and researchers.

Other departmental series include Economic Briefs (EBs) and Economic Information Briefs (EIBs). These nontechnical publications, intended for a broader audience, provide concise, timely insights from recent ERS research. The Food Assistance Landscape is an EIB that is published biannually. It provides an overview of USDA’s domestic food assistance programs, including recent program statistics, information on related issues, and research findings.
economic and social indicators, and highlights of recent FANRP research (Oliveira, September 2005).

Contractor and Cooperator Reports (CCRs), which result from FANRP’s extramural research program and are available in electronic form only, are a component of the ERS effort to serve the public with e-government technologies and the ERS website. The views expressed in CCRs, unlike reports in the departmental series, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ERS or USDA (FANRP, in accordance with program principles, makes its research publicly available). In addition to the series of reports, articles on food assistance and nutrition-related topics are often featured in the ERS periodical, Amber Waves. All ERS publications are available on the ERS website.

FANRP research targeted to narrower, more technical audiences can be found in a wide range of professional journals. Each year, ERS staff also present findings from FANRP research at numerous professional meetings across the country. The meetings are sponsored by such groups as the American Association of Food Stamp Directors, the National WIC Association, the School Nutrition Association, the American Public Human Services Association, the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics, the Society for Nutrition Education, the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, and the American Agricultural Economics Association.

To encourage interaction among researchers and policymakers, FANRP organizes and sponsors conferences and workshops. Two are held annually—the Food and Nutrition Research Small Grants Program Conference and the Food Assistance Research Conference: Recent Research and Emerging Issues. Other conferences, often co-sponsored with other institutions, are hosted to address timely and policy-relevant topics. For example, in previous years, FANRP hosted conferences on Income Volatility and Implications for Food Assistance Programs, Food Security Measurement and Research, Rural Dimensions of Welfare Reform, and the Economics of Obesity.

Fiscal 2005 Priority Research Areas and New Projects

FANRP responds to immediate and long-term research needs by annually identifying priority research areas. The following is a list of some of the projects funded under FANRP in fiscal 2005 (see table 1 for more detailed information about FANRP’s fiscal 2005 activities):  

**Strengthening Economic Incentives in Food Assistance Programs**—Projects in this area examine food assistance program incentives, policy choices, and economic impacts.

- Evaluation of State Food Policy Changes as Incentives To Foster Improved Middle School Lunch Selection and Consumption.
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program: Participation and Administration.
- Effective Tax Rates and Guarantees and Food Stamp Program Participation.
- Determinants of the Food Stamp Caseload.
- The Processes of Getting and Staying on Food Stamps in South Carolina.

**Food Choices, Diet Quality, Obesity, and Health Outcomes**—Projects in this area examine the causes and consequences of overweight and obesity and the eating patterns and diet quality of young adults.

- Economic Determinants of School Meal Participation.
- Food Insecurity and Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study–Birth Cohort.

**Food Assistance as a Safety Net**—Projects in this area examine conditions and policies that affect client access to and participation in food assistance programs.

- Household Food Security and Tradeoffs in the Food Stamp Budget: A Revitalized Engel Approach Including Food Stamps.

**Research Outreach**—FANRP continued its support of the Small Grants program, with the participation of five administering institutions, each of which specializes in different aspects of food assistance programs or population subgroups.

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6CCRs replace the E-FAN series.


FANRP, Today and Tomorrow

FANRP addresses the research needs of the Nation’s food assistance and nutrition programs. Its research analyzes the benefits of improved diets and food choices, the factors that influence diet and nutrition, and the outcomes of policies and programs aimed at improving the nutrition, well-being, and food security of Americans. These programs include the Food Stamp Program, WIC, and Child Nutrition Programs.

FANRP conducts and disseminates policy-relevant and programmatic research that informs decisionmakers and the public. FANRP will continue to integrate intramural research with its extramural program, enhancing its capacity to address policy and research needs of USDA’s food assistance and nutrition programs in a timely, objective, and cost-effective manner. To identify and prioritize research needs and policy issues, FANRP will continue to seek input from key constituencies, such as policy officials, program and research leaders, and the Food and Nutrition Service.
Chapter 2. Fiscal 2005 FANRP Activities

This chapter describes FANRP activities in fiscal 2005, first providing an overview of the extramural program, then describing the specific FANRP projects funded, and presenting a list of reports and journal articles based on FANRP projects that were published during the year.

Extramural Research Program, Fiscal 2005

To meet the program needs of the Department and promote research from a broad arena, FANRP uses a variety of funding mechanisms in its extramural programs.

Contracts are used when a very specific product is required, such as data collection. One contract, for $349,496, was awarded in fiscal 2005. It funded the collection and analysis of data on the operating characteristics, costs, and revenues of a national sample of School Food Authorities (SFAs), which operate the meal programs in schools.

Grants and cooperative agreements are used when the intent is to stimulate new and innovative research or to undertake projects jointly with ERS researchers. Grants are awarded when the research project supports the general public good and does not require substantial involvement between ERS staff and the extramural researchers during the performance of the award. Cooperative agreements, awarded when the research project requires more substantial involvement between ERS and the extramural researchers, enable ERS staff to supplement their own expertise with the knowledge and resources of academic and private institutions.8

The Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program is publicly announced and competitively awarded based on peer review, research priorities, and availability of funding (see appendix B for a list of the fiscal 2005 peer reviewers). Funding for seven cooperative agreements totaled $1,109,971 in fiscal 2005. In addition, a grant was awarded for $149,085. The acceptance rate for proposals of cooperative agreements and grants was about one in four, or in dollar terms, roughly $1 in $6.

In addition, five cooperative agreements were awarded outside the competitive program just discussed. These agreements, totaling $248,135, were awarded to fill special research needs of the ongoing internal research program. For example, the largest award, in the amount of $100,000, supports the development of a data base on State-level Food Stamp Program policies from 1996 to 2004 to be used in an analysis of the impacts of the policies on Food Stamp Program participation. A grant for $152,044 was also awarded to sponsor a conference on issues related to income volatility and its implications for food assistance.

The Small Grants Program funds grant competitions at five diverse institutions. Each institution focuses on a particular facet of food assistance, such as diet and health outcomes, relationships to poverty and well-being, rural issues, and special at-risk population groups. Funding for small grants totaled $980,275 in fiscal 2005.

Interagency agreements are used to enhance food assistance data development through cost-sharing partnerships and fund cooperative interagency research on program interactions and policy issues. Funding for interagency projects totaled $1,421,808, including funding for additional data collection in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, the Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies, as well as the Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

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8There are two types of cooperative agreements: cooperative research agreements and assistance-type cooperative agreements. In a cooperative research agreement, ERS staff and the extramural researcher(s) are close collaborators and contributors to support the research; in an assistance-type cooperative agreement, the extramural researcher(s) are responsible for conducting the greater part of the work on the project. Cooperative research agreements require both parties to contribute to the funding of the project; assistance-type cooperative agreements do not have this joint funding requirement.
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<tr>
<th>Research Projects/Awards</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Strengthening Economic Incentives in Food Assistance Programs</strong></td>
<td>To assess (1) how the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) fits into States’ overall designs to address food insecurity among target populations; (2) how States administer the program; (3) why some States choose not to participate; (4) who among those eligible tends to participate, and (5) expectations for the future of the CSFP. This project will combine administrative data with telephone interviews in nine States and field work at eight sites.</td>
<td>$210,000</td>
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<td>Commodity Supplemental Food Program: Participation and Administration The Urban Institute</td>
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<td>Processes of Getting and Staying on Food Stamps in South Carolina George Washington University</td>
<td>To examine how household Food Stamp Program (FSP) policies, such as recertification intervals, time limits for able-bodied adults without children, and outreach activities, affect applicants’ decisions to apply for FSP, length of stay on the program, and participants’ decisions to exit the program. The study will focus on how these policy effects differ by household type, including households with and without earnings; number of adults in the household; and the presence of elderly adults and children. The project will use administrative data for South Carolina.</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of State Food Policy Changes as Incentives To Foster Improved Middle School Lunch Selection and Consumption Baylor College of Medicine</td>
<td>To examine how well recent food policy changes in Texas schools act as incentives to improve middle school students’ food selection and consumption from various school sources, such as the National School Lunch Program, snack bars, and vending machines. Data obtained from students in three schools during the 2005-06 school year, when a new Texas school food policy that targets all school food environments takes effect, will be compared with data from two earlier periods—the 2001-02 school year and the 2002-03 school year.</td>
<td>$149,085</td>
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<td>Effective Tax Rates and Guarantees and Food Stamp Program Participation University of Kentucky</td>
<td>To examine the impact of effective tax rates and guarantees on households’ decisions to participate in the Food Stamp Program (FSP), depending on other macroeconomic, demographic, and policy factors. Concern has arisen about possible work-disincentive effects of program rules that impose high effective tax rates on families choosing to increase their work effort and about program actions that effectively reduce the level of program guarantees. Actual benefits from cash transfers and the FSP are reduced by the rules in question. The analysis will be based on administrative data combined with national survey data for 1983-2003.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<td>Research Projects/Awards</td>
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<td><strong>Determinants of the Food Stamp Caseload</strong>&lt;br&gt;RAND</td>
<td>To examine the determinants of the large drop in the food stamp caseload in the 1990s and large rise in the mid-2000s. The study will use State-level panel data constructed from the Food Stamp Program Quality Control administrative data from 1990 to 2004. The analysis will consider the separate effects of Food Stamp Program policy, welfare policy, and the economy.</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
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<td><strong>Structural Change in the Food Stamp Program Caseload Equation</strong>&lt;br&gt;Nova Scotia Agricultural College</td>
<td>To determine whether there has been structural change in the relationship between Food Stamp Program (FSP) caseloads and aggregate economic activity, particularly the unemployment rate. Historically, FSP caseloads have been positively correlated with aggregate economic activity measured by the unemployment rate. This relationship is useful in explaining fluctuations in caseloads and is used to predict future caseload levels and budget requirements. However, over time, the quantitative relationship between FSP caseloads and the unemployment rate appears to have changed. This study will evaluate the ability of regressions of the FSP caseload equation, which includes measures of economic activity (the unemployment rate and total nonfarm employment), to explain year-to-year changes in caseloads.</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<td><strong>WIC’s Effects on Prices of Infant Formula</strong>&lt;br&gt;University of California, Berkeley</td>
<td>To analyze the impact of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) on infant formula prices to government agencies and consumers. Rebates from infant formula manufacturers to WIC State agencies reduced the cost of the program by over $1.5 billion in fiscal 2004. However, concerns have been raised that WIC and its infant formula rebate program affect the price of formula for non-WIC customers. This analysis will be based on data from Information Resources, Inc., on household purchases of infant formula.</td>
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<td><strong>Food Choices, Diet Quality, Obesity, and Health Outcomes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Food Insecurity and Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort</strong>&lt;br&gt;Child Trends</td>
<td>To examine the association between food insecurity and a variety of health, nutrition, motor development, cognitive, social, and emotional outcomes for infants and toddlers. The study will determine how the associations and pathways differ based on characteristics of children and their families, including birthweight, income, parental nativity, and participation in food assistance programs. The study will use data from the 9- and 24-month waves of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort (ECLS-B).</td>
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| Economic Determinants of School Meal Participation  
  *RAND*                                                      | To examine the factors associated with variations in participation by schools and individuals in USDA’s school meals programs, particularly how participation varies with local food prices. Data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K) will be combined with contextual data on local area food prices and on neighborhood and school district characteristics in order to examine the neighborhood, school, family, and individual characteristics associated with elementary schoolchildren’s participation in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. | $199,971       |
| Development of a Questionnaire on Dietary Behavior of Low-Income Populations  
  *Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.*                         | To develop a short questionnaire that will assess important dietary behaviors associated with dietary quality and that will be widely usable with low-income populations across the United States. The core set of questions comprising the questionnaire will assess broad areas of dietary behavior emphasized by Federal dietary guidance. The questionnaire will also include modules that expand on the core questionnaire to provide additional information on particular topic areas. The questionnaire will be suitable for both telephone interviews and face-to-face situations. | $349,496       |
| Effects of Agricultural Research and Farm Subsidy Policies on Human Nutrition and Obesity  
  *University of California, Davis*                           | To examine the links between agricultural policies and obesity. Agricultural policies—including commodity price supports, import barriers, and public agricultural research and development—can affect commodity markets, food prices, nutritional characteristics of food products, and, thus, consumption choices and nutritional outcomes. Results from this study can be used to understand the links between agricultural policies and obesity, and to evaluate the implications of obesity policies for farm product demand. | $30,000        |
| Household Food Security and Tradeoffs in the Food Budget: A Revitalized Engel Approach Including Food Stamps  
  *Tufts University*                                           | To model and analyze the relationship between Food Stamp Program benefits, household spending decisions for food consumed at home and away from home, and the implications of those decisions for household food security. Data from the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement and the Food Stamp Program Quality Control system files for the years 2001-04 will be used for the empirical analyses. | $75,000        |
Table 1—FANRP Extramural Research Studies, Fiscal 2005—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Projects/Awards</th>
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<th>Estimated Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Outreach</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Grants Program</td>
<td>To stimulate new and innovative research on food assistance programs and to broaden the participation of social science scholars in food assistance research. Five academic institutions and affiliated research institutes partnered with ERS in 1998 to administer the Small Grants Program. Each institution focuses on a particular facet of food assistance, such as diet and health outcomes, relationships to poverty and well-being, rural issues, and special at-risk population groups. The five institutions and areas of focus are:</td>
<td>$980,275</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago</td>
<td>funds proposals on interactions between food assistance and other welfare programs and linkages between the macroeconomy and food assistance. ($179,999)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University</td>
<td>supports food assistance research on rural people, families, and communities in the South. The Center also initiated a dialogue among scholars by establishing a Rural South Food Assistance Research Task Force to further articulate research priorities on food-assistance-related issues. ($230,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The American Indian Studies Program, University of Arizona</td>
<td>is working with Native American scholars at tribal colleges and elsewhere to support research that addresses the unique issues and problems of Native Americans with respect to food assistance. ($210,304)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Department of Nutrition, University of California, Davis</td>
<td>has awarded small grants for research on the impact of food assistance programs on nutritional risk indicators (anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, and dietary), food purchasing practices, and food insecurity. This program seeks to encourage the study of multiple indicators of nutrition impact and interdisciplinary approaches to integrate epidemiology, economics, or anthropology with nutrition. ($179,972)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin</td>
<td>awards research grants that examine the relationship among the food assistance safety net, poverty, and well-being. ($180,000)</td>
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Continued—
Table 1—FANRP Extramural Research Studies, Fiscal 2005—Continued

<table>
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<th>Research Projects/Awards</th>
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</table>
| Conference on Income Volatility and Implications for Food Assistance Programs-II  
  *National Poverty Center, University of Michigan* | To sponsor a conference on issues related to income volatility and the movement in and out of food assistance program eligibility, the household’s decision to participate, compliance over time, and program costs. The conference and dissemination of its research findings will facilitate interaction among policy leaders, government officials, and the academic community on the topic of efficient delivery of program benefits to eligible participants. | $152,044 |

**Enhanced Food Assistance Research Data**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Research Projects/Awards</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
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</table>
| Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort (ECLS-B)  
  *National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education* | To include the following in the ECLS-B: items on participation of children and their families in Federal food assistance programs and other public assistance programs, items on infant and child feeding practices, USDA’s food security questionnaire module, and measures of children’s length/height and weight. | $456,954 |
| Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K)  
  *National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education* | To include the following in the ECLS-K: items on children’s participation in the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs, items on their families’ participation in Federal food assistance programs and other public assistance programs, USDA’s food security questionnaire module, and measures of children’s length/height and weight. | $310,854 |
| Current Population Survey (CPS) Food Security Supplement  
  *U.S. Census Bureau* | To develop annual estimates of the prevalence of food security in the United States and to provide data for analysis of the determinants of and changes in the level of food security. | $450,000 |
  *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* | To support inclusion of a battery of food security questions in individual interviews of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. | $135,000 |
| Committee on National Statistics  
  *Funded through the National Science Foundation* | To provide core funding for the Committee on National Statistics for such activities as a review of the 2000 Census, poverty estimates for small areas, measuring the effects of social welfare reform, cost-of-living indexes, performance measures for public health programs, the use of statistical formulas in legislation for fund allocation, confidentiality and data access, and other issues. | $26,000 |

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<tr>
<td><strong>Amendments to Ongoing Projects</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Security Measurement Expert Review Panel Study</td>
<td>To provide support for the second phase of a National Academy of Science panel to review the conceptualization and methods for measuring food security for monitoring, evaluation, and related research purposes.</td>
<td>$68,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Are State Food Stamp and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Policy Choices Affecting Food Stamp Participation? The Urban Institute</td>
<td>To quantify Food Stamp Program (FSP) State-level policy changes made between 1996 and 2003 and, using data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), estimate the relative impacts of FSP policies, cash welfare policies, and economic and demographic characteristics on FSP participation. FSP participation rates fell sharply in the mid- to late 1990s. In response, new policy options were made available for State administrators to improve accessibility. Additional funding was provided to develop a data base on State-level FSP policies for the 1996-2004 period.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study of School Food Authority Characteristics, Costs, and Revenues: Data Collection and Analysis Food and Nutrition Services, USDA</td>
<td>To describe the environment and operations of School Food Authorities (SFA), describe their costs, revenues, and financial practices, and model the relationship of SFA costs to production of reimbursable meals, other outputs, and SFA characteristics. Objectives will be accomplished through a data collection appended to the Food and Nutrition Service School Nutrition Assessment Study-Phase I and a set of data analyses. Additional funding was provided to add variables from U.S. Department of Education data files and to conduct additional analysis.</td>
<td>$43,000</td>
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</table>

The following is a list of publications sponsored by the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program (either directly or through the Small Grants Program) during fiscal 2005. Two categories of publications are listed: (1) Monographs and Journal Articles, and (2) Working/Discussion Papers. Electronic copies of all ERS publications are available at http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/.

Chapter 3. FANRP Publications, Fiscal 2005

The following is a list of publications sponsored by the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program (either directly or through the Small Grants Program) during fiscal 2005. Two categories of publications are listed: (1) Monographs and Journal Articles, and (2) Working/Discussion Papers. Electronic copies of all ERS publications are available at http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/.

Monographs and Journal Articles


**Working and Discussion Papers**


Chapter 4. FANRP Publications, Fiscal 1998-2004

The following is a list of publications sponsored by the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program from fiscal 1998, its first year of mandated responsibility, through fiscal 2004. Publications are listed in one of two categories: (1) Monographs and Journal Articles, and (2) Working/Discussion Papers. Electronic copies of reports in the FANRR and E-FAN series are available at http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/readings/.

Monographs and Journal Articles


Contents:

Alaimo, K., C. Olson, and E. Frongillo, Jr. “Food Insufficiency and Children’s Health Status in the United States: Findings from the NHANES III.”


Dwyer, J., J. Mayer, and J. Cook. “Nutrition and Health Perspectives on Establishing a Food Security Research Agenda: What Can We Learn From the Past to Establish a Framework For the Future?”

Gundersen, G., and J. Gruber. “The Dynamic Determinants of Food Insufficiency.”


Tarasuk, V. “Dietary Factors Associated With Reported Food Insecurity.”


Contents:
- Blisard, N. “Advertising and What We Eat: The Case of Dairy Products.”
- Crane, N., V. Hubbard, and C. Lewis. “American Diets and Year 2000 Goals.”
- Davis, C., and E. Saltos. “Dietary Recommendations and How They Have Changed Over Time.”
- Frazão, E. “High Costs of Poor Eating Patterns in the United States.”
- Gallo, A. “Food Advertising in the United States.”
- Huang, K. “Role of National Income and Prices.”
- Kantor, L. “A Comparison of the U.S. Food Supply With the Food Guide Pyramid Recommendations.”


Lin, B., J. Guthrie, and E. Frazão. “Nutrient Contribution of Food Away From Home.”


Variyam, J. “Role of Demographics, Knowledge, and Attitudes: Fats and Cholesterol.”

Weimer, J. “Accelerating the Trend Toward Healthy Eating: Public and Private Efforts.”


Hanson, K. *Food Assistance Research Brief—Importance of Child Nutrition Programs to Agriculture*, Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Report No. 34-12, USDA, ERS, July 2003.


Contents:
Gundersen, C., and J. Ziliak. “The Role of Food Stamps in Stabilizing Income and Consumption.”
Haider, S., R. Schoeni, and A. Jacknowitz. “Food Stamps and the Elderly: Why is Participation so Low?”
Kabbani, N., and P. Wilde. “Short Recertification Periods in the U.S. Food Stamp Program: Causes and Consequences.”
Yelowitz, A. “Gateways into the Food Stamp Program.”


Pindus, N. *Implementing Welfare Reform in Rural Communities*, The Urban Institute, February 2001.


Contents:

- Gundersen, C., and J. Ziliak. “The Role of Food Stamps in Consumption Stabilization.”
- Kabbani, N., and P. Wilde. “Short Recertification Periods in the U.S. Food Stamp Program.”

Moffitt, R. “The Role of Nonfinancial Factors in Exit and Entry in the TANF Program.”


Contents:


Henry, M., L. Reinschmidt, W. Lewis, Jr., and D. Hudson. “Reducing Food Stamp and Welfare Caseloads in the South: Are Rural Areas Less Likely to Succeed Than Urban Centers?”


Nord, M. “The Decline in Food Stamp Use by Rural Low-Income Households: Less Need or Less Access?”


Working and Discussion Papers


Cason, K., R. Cox, and J. Burney. *Do Food Stamps Without Education Improve the Nutrient Intake and Food-Related Behaviors of Recipients?* Food Assistance Policy Series, No. 4, Southern Rural Development Center, March 2002.


Huang, C., J. Lee, B. Lin, N. Canolty, and P. Boumtje. Factors Affecting Obesity Among School Children in the United States, Faculty Series, FS 00-11, The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, August 2000.


Institutions
Abt Associates Inc.
ACNielsen
ATMS
Boston Medical Center
Cancer Research Center of Hawaii
Channing Laboratory, Brigham and Woman’s Hospital
Child Trends
Children’s Hospital Medical Center (Cincinnati)
Committee on National Statistics
Health Systems Research
Information Resources, Inc.
IQ Solutions
Life Sciences Research Organization
Lewin Group
Macro International
Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation
Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
National Academy of Sciences
National Bureau of Economic Research
National Science Foundation
ORC Macro, Inc.
RAND
Research Triangle Institute, Inc.
Resource Network International
Rockefeller Institute of Government
Society for Nutrition Education
Sphere Institute
United Nations University Centre
Urban Institute
World Health Organization
Medical College of Georgia Research Institute, Inc.
Middle Tennessee State University
North Carolina State University
Nova Scotia Agricultural College
Oregon State University
Mississippi State University
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Arizona
University of Baltimore
University of California-Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of Chicago
University of Georgia
University of Houston
University of Kansas Medical Center
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Notre Dame
University of North Carolina
University of Nevada
University of New Mexico
University of Oregon
University of Southern Mississippi
University of Tennessee
University of West Virginia
University of Wisconsin

Universities
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Auburn University
Baylor University
Boston University
Cornell University
George Washington University
Harvard University
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University
Northwestern University
Louisiana Tech University

Government Agencies
Agricultural Research Service, USDA
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, USDA
Food and Drug Administration
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
National Agricultural Library, USDA
National Center for Education Statistics,
- U.S. Department of Education
South Carolina Social Services
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
USDA Graduate School
Virginia Department of Social Services
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewer</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Anderson</td>
<td>Dartmouth College, Department of Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judi Bartfeld</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Consumer Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Basiotis</td>
<td>USDA, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Baum</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Economics and Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathleen Bissell-Benabides</td>
<td>California Department of Health Services</td>
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<td>Nancy Burstein</td>
<td>Abt Associates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andi Carlson</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Chalfant</td>
<td>University of California-Davis, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharron Christofar</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Davis</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University, Department of Agricultural Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Devaney</td>
<td>Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.</td>
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<td>Mary Kay Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Frongillo Jr.</td>
<td>Cornell University, Division of Nutritional Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Gable</td>
<td>University of Missouri, Department of Human Development and Family Studies</td>
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<td>Jenny Genser</td>
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<td>Christina Gibson-Davis</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Grogger</td>
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<td>Lisa Harnack</td>
<td>University of Minnesota, School of Public Health</td>
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<td>Diane Herz</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics</td>
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<td>Wally Huffman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erik Hurst</td>
<td>University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business</td>
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<td>Ted Joyce</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cynthia Miller</td>
<td>MDRC</td>
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<td>Johns Hopkins University, Department of Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad Meyerhoefer</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality</td>
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<td>Scott Powers</td>
<td>University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Reedy</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Cancer Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabel Rose</td>
<td>Marist College, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Senauer</td>
<td>University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reviewer
Anna Maria Siega-Riz
David Stapleton
Paul Strasberg
Fisseha Tegegne
Shelly Ver Ploeg
Christopher Winship

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University of North Carolina, Department of Nutrition
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Tennessee State University, Cooperative Agricultural Research
USDA, Economic Research Service
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