

USDA Accomplishments Under the Bush Administration 2001-2008

Improved the Nation's Nutrition and Health

USDA promotes America's health through food assistance for low-income people, and nutrition education, guidance and promotion for the general public and targeted groups. USDA also expands research and scientific knowledge about the contribution of food and human nutrition to public health. By promoting better diets, reaching children early and ensuring access to healthy food, the Department contributes to the Nation's health.

Improved Access to Nutritious Food

- Federal nutrition assistance programs last year aided one in every five people in the United States.
- In the 8 years of the Bush Administration, 370 million additional free or reduced-price lunches were made available to low-income children through the National School Lunch Program.
- The School Breakfast Program provides 488 million breakfasts to school children.
- In December 2007, USDA implemented the first major changes to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) food packages since 1980, putting the program in alignment with today's nutrition needs. The WIC Program serves nearly 8.2 million pregnant women, new mothers and their young children.

Promoted Healthier Eating Habits and Lifestyles

- USDA worked jointly with the Department of Health and Human Services to revise the Dietary Guidelines, which were released in 2005. In April 2005, USDA launched MyPyramid.gov, a web-based educational tool that puts the Dietary Guidelines into action by allowing Americans to assess and personalize their diet and physical activity plans.
- USDA's HealthierUS School Challenge encouraged 500 schools nationwide to meet specific criteria for healthy nutrition practices.
- To enhance the efforts of the Dietary Guidelines revision process for 2010 and beyond, USDA created a state of the art web-based Nutrition Evidence Library that stores and retrieves the most up-to-date reports of evidence-based, scientific nutrition and education research available.

Improved Food Program Management and Customer Service

- In December 2006, USDA's Foods Communications Initiative streamlined a "real time" food ordering system to make procurement and delivering of meals to feeding programs more efficient.

Expanded Nutritional Benefits through New Initiatives and Products

- The Bush Administration's innovative Stocks-for-Food initiative barter excess government-owned bulk commodities in exchange for canned goods and cereals made readily available to food banks and other USDA nutrition-assistance programs. The value of this benefit by December 2008 is estimated at \$140 million.
- USDA researchers and industry partners developed a nutritious alternative to those with peanut allergies: a sunflower butter that resembles the flavor, texture and appearance of peanut butter known as Sunbutter®.
- USDA researchers developed NatureSeal®, an invisible, vitamin and mineral-based coating that extends the shelf-life of sliced fruits and vegetables for up to two weeks under refrigeration without detectable changes in color, flavor or texture.