Retailer Notice

New SNAP Staple Foods Stocking Standards are coming!

Updated SNAP retailer stocking standards

USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recently published updates to the stocking standards required for most retailers authorized to accept SNAP benefits. Starting on November 4, 2026, all retailers other than specialty stores (e.g., butchers, farm stands) will be required to comply with these standards or **risk losing your ability to redeem SNAP.**

What staple foods will I need to stock?

The upcoming changes will require you to offer **at least seven varieties in each staple food category** – dairy, vegetables or fruits, grains, and protein. Please note that this is more varieties than are currently required in each category. There are also additional types of varieties defined within each staple food category. A variety is a food that is distinct from another food in the same staple food category. For example, apples and oranges are two varieties in the vegetables or fruits staple foods category, and plain, fresh chicken and dry beans are two varieties in the protein staple foods category. The changes will also require you to offer a perishable variety in **at least three of the four staple food categories**.

What foods no longer count toward the stocking standards?

FNS has also changed the classification of butter, jerky, cheese dip, snack bars, and fruit spreads. These items no longer qualify as staple foods. This means they cannot count as one of the foods you can stock to be qualified as a SNAP authorized retailer, but they are still eligible for purchase with SNAP benefits. Please note, retailers must also follow any applicable policies regarding food restrictions in effect for each state. More information on food restriction waivers is available at https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/waivers/foodrestriction.

How can I learn more?

The legally binding final rule, which contains the new retailer requirements, was published on May 8, 2026 (91 FR 25082) and is available at https://www.federalregister.gov. FNS is developing additional resources for retailers to support the new stocking standards.

For more information visit https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailer/stocking-standards-rule.

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