

supporting comments further expressed concern over the potential impact on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) Feeder Cattle cash settlement price. They requested AMS analyze the potential impact on the current market situation using the 1979 Feeder Cattle standards and the proposed standards. Market News evaluated a limited number of markets during September/October 1999 and November/December 1999. The evaluation determined the number of cattle identified as No. 1 muscle score will decline, however the average cost per hundred weight will increase. This information will allow the CME to make any appropriate adjustments in feeder cattle future contracts.

One comment focused on muscling and its lack of importance to lean yield. However, current research indicates that truly heavy muscled cattle are not sufficiently recognized by the current standards to have an impact in the price discovery process. One comment interpreted the proposed standard as being initiated by USDA, AMS and not as an industry driven, research supported modification to the current standards. As discussed previously, the update of the standards is supported by the CSU study and the request for the update was initiated by industry and other groups, including State Departments of Agriculture, that officially grade feeder cattle for marketing programs. The updated standards more accurately represent today's population of feeder cattle and thus should provide the industry with more meaningful market evaluations.

In consideration of the submitted public comments, and all other available information, USDA is revising the official U.S. Standards for Grades of Feeder Cattle by modifying the frame size parameters as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1.—WEIGHT/FRAME SIZE

Frame size	Steers weight, lbs.	Heifers weight, lbs.
Small	<1100	<1000

TABLE 1.—WEIGHT/FRAME SIZE—
Continued

Frame size	Steers weight, lbs.	Heifers weight, lbs.
Medium	1100–1250	1000–1150
Large	>1250	>1150

Also, the changes adjust the minimum requirements for the muscle thickness grades and increase the number of grades from three (3) to four (4) to accommodate thicker muscled cattle. In order to allow the industry sufficient time to update its current system, the updated standards will be implemented October 1, 2000.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1621–1627.

Dated: June 21, 2000.

Barry L. Carpenter,

Deputy Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Child and Adult Care Food Program: National Average Payment Rates, Day Care Home Food Service Payment Rates, and Administrative Reimbursement Rates for Sponsoring Organizations of Day Care Homes for the Period July 1, 2000–June 30, 2001

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the annual adjustments to: the national average payment rates for meals and supplements served in child care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, at-risk afterschool care centers, and adult day care centers; the food service payment rates for meals and supplements served in day care homes; and the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsoring organizations of day care homes, to reflect changes in the

Consumer Price Index. Further adjustments are made to these rates to reflect the higher costs of providing meals in the States of Alaska and Hawaii. The adjustments contained in this notice are made on an annual basis each July, as required by the statutes and regulations governing the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa Rothstein, Section Chief, Child and Adult Care and Summer Programs Section, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, Alexandria, Virginia, 22302, (703) 305–2620.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Definitions

The terms used in this notice shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the regulations governing the CACFP (7 CFR part 226).

Background

Pursuant to sections 4, 11 and 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (NSLA) (42 U.S.C. 1753, 1759a and 1766), section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (CNA) (42 U.S.C. 1773) and sections 226.4, 226.12 and 226.13 of the regulations governing the CACFP (7 CFR part 226), notice is hereby given of the new payment rates for institutions participating in CACFP. These rates shall be in effect during the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

As provided for under the NSLA and the CNA, all rates in the CACFP must be revised annually on July 1 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the most recent 12-month period. In accordance with this mandate, the Department last published the adjusted national average payment rates for centers, the food service payment rates for day care homes, and the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsors of day care homes on July 9, 1999 at 64 FR 37087 (for the period July 1, 1999–June 30, 2000).

CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP)							
Per Meal Rates in Whole or Fractions of U.S. Dollars							
Effective from July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001							
CENTERS		BREAKFAST		LUNCH AND SUPPER ¹		SUPPLEMENT	
CONTIGUOUS STATES	PAID	.21		.19		.05	
	REDUCED PRICE	.82		1.62		.27	
	FREE	1.12		2.02		.55	
ALASKA	PAID	.30		.31		.08	
	REDUCED PRICE	1.47		2.88		.45	
	FREE	1.77		3.28		.90	
HAWAII	PAID	.23		.22		.05	
	REDUCED PRICE	1.00		1.97		.32	
	FREE	1.30		2.37		.65	
DAY CARE HOMES		BREAKFAST		LUNCH AND SUPPER		SUPPLEMENT	
		TIER I	TIER II	TIER I	TIER II	TIER I	TIER II
CONTIGUOUS STATES		.94	.35	1.72	1.04	.51	.14
ALASKA		1.48	.54	2.79	1.68	.83	.23
HAWAII		1.09	.40	2.02	1.22	.60	.16
ADMINISTRATIVE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS OF DAY CARE HOMES PER HOME/PER MONTH RATES IN U.S. DOLLARS				Initial 50	Next 150	Next 800	Each Additional
CONTIGUOUS STATES				80	61	48	42
ALASKA				130	99	77	68
HAWAII				94	71	56	49

¹These rates do not include the value of commodities (or cash-in-lieu of commodities) which institutions receive as additional assistance for each lunch or supper served to participants under the program. A notice announcing the value of commodities and cash-in-lieu of commodities is published separately in the *Federal Register*.

The changes in the national average payment rates for centers reflect a 2.25 percent increase during the 12-month period, May 1999 to May 2000, (from 164.6 in May 1999 to 168.3 in May 2000) in the food away from home series of the CPI for All Urban Consumers.

The changes in the food service payment rates for day care homes reflect a 2.19 percent increase during the 12-month period, May 1999 to May 2000, (from 163.9 in May 1999 to 167.5 in May 2000) in the food at home series of the CPI for All Urban Consumers.

The changes in the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsoring organizations of day care homes reflect a 3.07 percent increase during the 12-month period, May 1999 to May 2000, (from 166.2 in May 1999 to 171.3 in May 2000) in the series for all items of the CPI for All Urban Consumers, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

The total amount of payments available to each State agency for distribution to institutions participating in the program is based on the rates contained in this notice.

This action is not a rule as defined by the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601-612) and thus is exempt from the provisions of that Act. This notice has been determined to be exempt under Executive Order 12866.

This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under No. 10.558 and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372,

which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. (See 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V, and final rule related notice published at 48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983.)

This notice imposes no new reporting or recordkeeping provisions that are subject to Office of Management and Budget review in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3518).

Authority: Sections 4(b)(2), 11a, 17(c) and 17(f)(3)(B) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1753(b)(2), 1759a, 1766(f)(3)(B)) and section 4(b)(1)(B) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended 42 U.S.C. 1773(b)(1)(B).

Dated: June 21, 2000.

Samuel Chambers, Jr.,

Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

National School Lunch, Special Milk, and School Breakfast Programs; National Average Payments/Maximum Reimbursement Rates

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice announces the annual adjustments to: (1) The "national

average payments," the amount of money the Federal Government provides States for lunches, afterschool snacks and breakfasts served to children participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; (2) the "maximum reimbursement rates," the maximum per lunch rate from Federal funds that a State can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program; and (3) the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to nonneedy children in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. The payments and rates are prescribed on an annual basis each July. The annual payments and rates adjustments for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs reflect changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. The annual rate adjustment for the Special Milk Program reflects changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products. These payments and rates are in effect from July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary Jane Whitney, Section Chief, School Programs Section, Policy and Program Development Branch, Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1007, Alexandria, VA 22302 or phone (703) 305-2620.