**New Creditable Foods for Child Nutrition Programs**

# The following foods are now creditable at meals and snacks for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP).

**SHELF-STABLE, DRIED AND SEMI-DRIED MEAT, POULTRY, AND SEAFOOD PRODUCTS**

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwig6OfF38HiAhUVr54KHSLaAXoQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://www.hickoryfarms.com/meat-cheese/meat/beef-summer-sausage/signature-beef-summer-sausage-003070.html&psig=AOvVaw0OibQPuxwYKEiuvCFfeXtd&ust=1559253893952274)Shelf-stable, dried and semi-dried meat, poultry, and seafood, such as beef jerky or summer sausage are creditable as **meat**.

* To credit these products, programs must obtain and use Child Nutrition (CN) labels or Product Formulation Statements (PFS) from the manufacturer.
* The school is responsible for evaluating the PFS to ensure that crediting principles are followed including the meat ingredient listed matches a meat in the Food Buying Guide and that the creditable amount cannot exceed the finished weight of the product.

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwj8xu6z4cHiAhVO_J4KHV_uCFcQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://www.liveeatlearn.com/tempeh/&psig=AOvVaw3CcKjqfyRyr6YmGyiOwtbo&ust=1559254371351017)

# TEMPEH

Tempeh is a fermented soybean cake made from whole soybeans or other beans/legumes and grains and is creditable as a **meat alternate**.

# 1 oz. of tempeh credits as 1 oz. meat alternate for tempeh

with ingredients limited to soybeans (or other legumes), water, tempeh culture\*, vinegar, seasonings, and herbs

* Varieties of tempeh that include other creditable foods as ingredients, such as brown rice, sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, flax seed, and/or vegetables, may also credit as meat alternates, grains, and/or vegetables using a PFS or CN label.

\* **Tempeh culture** may be listed on the ingredients label as rhizopus *oligosporous* culture, *rhizopus* culture, *rhizopus*, tempeh culture, or starter culture.

* A vegetarian option that can be used in recipes including

stir-fries, sandwiches, and salads.

# COCONUT

Fresh or frozen coconut credits as a **fruit** based on volume served.

* [](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjeg7bn4sHiAhWSvp4KHS3TCtgQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://remediumcandle.com/coconut-snack-2/&psig=AOvVaw1JwQUbu0AljIjawF767L5a&ust=1559254749328499)At least 1/8 cup must be served (with additional fruit served to meet the minimum requirement).
* Can be used to enhance the taste and presentation of salads, smoothies, and other dishes served with meals or as snacks.
* 100% juice that includes coconut water as an ingredient credits toward the fruit component per volume -served.
* Dried coconut, coconut flour, and oil are not creditable.

# HOMINY

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjvv9mc48HiAhUPsJ4KHZK9BPsQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://www.dadcooksdinner.com/instant-pot-hominy-from-dried/&psig=AOvVaw3rm_nawuyy74kWG3KkZJVP&ust=1559254877860953)Traditional food in Mexican and Native American cultures. Credits as a **vegetable** or **whole grain (WGR)** (depending on how it is offered).

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Hominy** | **Serving Size** | **Creditable Component** |
| Whole form  (canned, drained) | ¼ cup | ¼ cup Vegetable   * Starchy Vegetable Sub Group |
| Cooked dry form (grits) | ½ cup cooked or 1 oz. (28 g) | 1 oz. eq. Grain (WGR) |

# [Image result for corn meal](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjsjISq5cHiAhWWop4KHcoTDb0QjRx6BAgBEAU&url=http://www.thrivingonplants.com/recipe/african-cornmeal/&psig=AOvVaw2LL8sUOtcoBS2aaL1nbNLL&ust=1559255415810708)

# CORN MASA, CORN FLOUR, and CORNMEAL

Corn masa, corn flour, and cornmeal are creditable as **whole grain rich (WGR)** ingredients.

* Used for making tortilla chips, taco shells, tamales, pupusas, and other popular corn products.
* Credit these items the same as other grain ingredients and foods.

# POPCORN

Popcorn is creditable as a **WGR** food, crediting to the **grain** component.

* The amount of popcorn required may be too much for young children; therefore, programs may want to serve popcorn with another creditable grain. For example, serve popcorn with a whole-grain wrap at lunch.

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| --- | --- |
| **Popped Popcorn** | **Whole Grain** |
| ¾ cup (or 0.25 oz.) | ¼ oz. eq. |
| 1 ½ cups (or 0.5 oz.) | ½ oz. eq. |
| 3 cups (1.0 oz.) | 1 oz. eq. |

* Popcorn may be used as an ingredient in store-bought foods or foods prepared by programs.
  + Popcorn must be present in the minimum creditable quantity, which is ¾ cup or ¼ oz. eq.
  + To credit in store-bought foods, programs must obtain and use a PFS or CN label.
* Toppings such as salt, cheese, and butter may be used, but programs are encouraged to limit the use of toppings. The dietary specifications for calories, saturated fat, and sodium must be met if the program chooses to use of these added ingredients in the NSLP. Encourage healthier toppings such as herb blends or serve fresh, plain popcorn.

# PASTA PRODUCTS MADE OF VEGETABLE FLOUR

Pasta made of 100% vegetable flour(s) credits as a **vegetable.**

* + Whole vegetables cut into “noodles’ or spirals, such as spiralized zucchini or sweet potatoes, continue to credit as a vegetable based on the volume served.
* Pasta made of 100% legume flour(s) may credit as a **vegetable** or **meat/meat alternate**, but not as both in the same meal**.**
* Grain-based pasta products that contain small amounts of vegetable powder for color (e.g. spinach, sun-dried tomato) continue to credit as a grain.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Pasta** | **Serving Size** | **Creditable Component** |
| **Made of 100% vegetable flour(s)**   1. **Made from one veg subgroup** 2. **Made from multiple veg subgroups** | ½ cup cooked pasta | ½ cup Vegetable   1. Credits to appropriate veg subgroup 2. PFS details veg subgroups OR credit to Additional veg subgroup |
| **Made of 100% legume flour(s)** | ½ cup cooked pasta | ½ cup Vegetable  OR  2 oz. eq. of Meat Alternate  *🗸 Must be offered with an additional*  *0.25 oz eq of m/ma*  *(e.g. tofu, cheese, or meat)* |
| **Made of vegetable flour(s) and other non-vegetable ingredients** | PFS required to credit for vegetable component | |

* Programs must indicate to participants (i.e. students eating lunch) that pasta made of vegetable flour is a ‘vegetable’ and not a grain. For [](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi7ssiTocTiAhVF-lQKHbV9AfkQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=/url?sa%3Di%26rct%3Dj%26q%3D%26esrc%3Ds%26source%3Dimages%26cd%3D%26ved%3D2ahUKEwjBt_qRocTiAhUP3Z8KHfQnApEQjRx6BAgBEAU%26url%3Dhttps://www.doctoroz.com/recipe/red-lentil-pasta-broccoli-rabe-and-cherry-tomatoes%26psig%3DAOvVaw3OckHv5KWXQFPR4d4xllwm%26ust%3D1559340216650540&psig=AOvVaw3OckHv5KWXQFPR4d4xllwm&ust=1559340216650540)example, pasta made of chickpea flour could be labeled on menus as ‘Chickpea Pasta’ and indicated as the vegetable component. Programs can also use signs or other nutrition education materials.
* It is also critical that POS operators and serving staff are trained to recognize the pasta made with vegetable flour in the reimbursable meal.

# [http://lotusseafood.com/assets/images/shrimp.png](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=imgres&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjZ78XdpcTiAhWnilQKHZdUAgAQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=http://lotusseafood.com/surimi/&psig=AOvVaw2GxUFlm_HDll23gZJBcY-O&ust=1559341454838657)

# SURIMI SEAFOOD

Surimi seafood is a pasteurized, ready-to-eat, restructured seafood usually made from pollock (fish) that credits as a **meat/meat alternate**. The crediting information is in the chart below:

*Some surimi products may be made with higher percentages of m/ma ingredients; therefore, to credit surimi differently than what is listed in the chart, obtain a CN label or PFS.*

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| --- | --- |
| **Surimi Seafood** | **Meat/Meat Alternate** |
| 4.4 ounces | 1.5 ounces m/ma |
| 3.0 ounces | 1.0 ounces m/ma |
| 1.0 ounces | 0.25 ounces m/ma |

* Surimi is available in many forms and shapes, including chunks, shredded, and flaked, and does not require additional preparation.
* Can be incorporated into a variety of menu items, such as seafood salads, sushi-style rolls, sandwiches, tacos, and ramen.

# Links to USDA Policy Memos

* Shelf-Stable, Dried and Semi-Dried Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Products ([SP 21-2019 Crediting Shelf-Stable, Dried and Semi-Dried Meat, Poultry, and Seafood Products in the Child Nutrition Programs](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SP21_CACFP08_SFSP07-2019os.pdf))
* Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Corn Flour ([SP 22-2019: Crediting Coconut, Hominy, Corn Masa, and Corn Flour in the Child Nutrition Programs](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SP22_CACFP09_SFSP08-2019os.pdf))
* Tempeh ([SP 25-2019: Crediting Tempeh in the Child Nutrition Programs](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SP25_CACFP12_SFSP11-2019os.pdf))
* Popcorn ([SP 23-2019: Crediting Popcorn in the Child Nutrition Programs](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SP23_CACFP10_SFSP09-2019os.pdf))
* Pasta Products Made of Vegetable Flour ([SP 26-2019: Crediting Pasta Products Made of Vegetable Flour in the Child Nutrition Programs](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SP26_CACFP13_SFSP12-2019os.pdf))
* Surimi Seafood ([SP 24-2019: Crediting Surimi Seafood in the Child Nutrition Programs](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SP24_CACFP11_SFSP10-2019os.pdf))

To view the Food Buying Guide, please visit https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs.

For more information on CN Labeling or Manufacturer’s Product Formulation Statements, please see:

CN Labeling: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/child-nutrition-cn-labelingprogram.

Manufacturer’s Product Formulation Statement: https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/food-manufacturersindustry