CREDITABLE AND NON-CREDITABLE FOODS

When planning menus, be sure the foods used to meet meal pattern requirements are creditable. While non-creditable foods do not count toward meeting the meal pattern requirements, they can be served in addition to the required components of a reimbursable meal. The addition of these types of food items adds cost and nutrients to the menus. You are required to track these food items on the daily production record.

### Commercially Prepared* Entrees and Sauces

These foods do not count toward the meal pattern unless you have a CN label or a Product Specification Sheet on file:
- Canned, Powdered or Frozen Cheese Sauce
- Canned Pasta Products such as Ravioli
- Frozen Entrees (Lasagna, Stuffed Shells, etc.).
- Frozen Pizza
- Pepperoni

* non-commodity items

### Other Foods

These foods do not count toward meal pattern requirements. They may be offered as part of a meal.
- Bacon, Bacon Bits, Turkey Bacon
- Butter/Margarine
- Cheetos
- Chili Sauce
- Coconut
- Condiments (BBQ Sauce, Ketchup, Mustard)
- Cream, Fresh or Sour
- Cream Cheese
- Funyuns
- Frozen Yogurt
- Hominy
- Honey
- Ice Cream, Ice Cream Cones
- Jams, Jellies
- Jerky (all meat types)
- Gelatin
- Mayonnaise
- Pizza Sauce
- Popcorn
- Potato Chips
- Puddings (canned or prepared from mix)
- Relish
- Salad Dressings
- Salsa (except commodity or homemade)
- Sausage Sticks (all meat types)
- Spaghetti Sauce (except commodity or homemade)
- Taco Sauce

### Canned Soups

Canned soups count toward the meal pattern requirements only under certain conditions:
- Tomato Soup, counts towards the Vegetable component – red/orange subgroup.
- A one-cup serving of Tomato Soup unless CN labeled differently is equivalent to 1/4 cup of Vegetable component.
- None of the meat or poultry-based soups (such as chicken noodle, beef barley, etc.) count toward the Meat/Meat Alternate component.

### Canned and Frozen Juices

- Juice must be 100% full strength.
- No more than 1/2 of the fruits or vegetables offered during the week may be in the form of fruit or vegetable juice.
- Nectars, drinks, cocktails, and ades do not credit.
- 100% fruit juice based sherbets are not creditable.

### Additional Information

- Dried fruit credits for twice the volume served (1/4 c. serving = 1/2 c. fruit)
- Raw green leafy vegetables credit differently than cooked:
  - 1 c. raw green leafy = 1/2 c. vegetable
  - 1/2 c. cooked green leafy = 1/2 c. vegetable