

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

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.

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

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