

Per the following USDA Technical Assistance memo, the guidance below is provided regarding crediting meals.

MEMO CODE: TA 01-2008  
DATE: December 11, 2007  
SUBJECT: Crediting of Corn Meal (Cornmeal) and Corn Flour for  
Grains/Breads Component  
TO: Special Nutrition Programs  
All Regions  
State Agencies  
Child Nutrition Programs  
All States

To be credited as a grains/breads component for Food-Based Menu Planning approaches for all Child Nutrition Programs (including schools, child and adult care, and summer programs), grain products must be enriched or whole-grain, or made from enriched or whole-grain meal and/or flour. Bran and germ are credited the same as enriched or whole-grain meal or flour.

For a number of years, the Child Nutrition Programs allowed corn meal (cornmeal) and corn flour to be counted as a whole grain for crediting grains/breads. This is because the standard of identity for "corn meal" and "corn flour" was interpreted as yielding a whole grain.

On February 17, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration published a draft guidance entitled *Whole Grain Label Statements* that contained the following statement: *"Degerminated and bolted cornmeals should not be considered whole grain products because germ or bran has been removed during processing. Because the rest of the meal [flour] standards allow removal of some of the hull, these also should not be considered whole grain products."* This clarification by FDA of the standards of identity for "corn meal" and "corn flour" indicates that these products should no longer be considered as whole grains for the Child Nutrition Programs.

**Therefore, beginning July 1, 2008, to be credited toward meeting meal pattern requirements, corn must be labeled as...**

- 1. "whole corn" (or other "whole" corn designations, such as whole grain corn, whole ground corn, whole cornmeal, whole corn flour, etc.), or**
- 2. "enriched" corn (or other "enriched" corn designations, such as enriched yellow cornmeal, enriched corn flour, enriched corn grits, etc.).**

Child Nutrition Programs are encouraged to implement this requirement as soon as possible, but no later than July 1, 2008, to ensure that students receive more nutritious grains/breads products.

**Original Signed**

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Director  
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