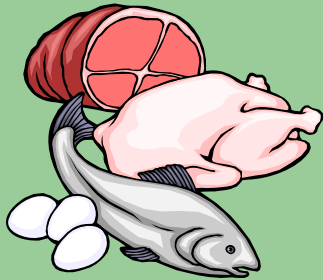


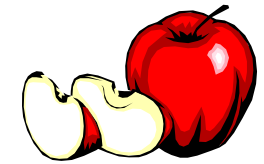
School Food Purchase Study: Final Report

October 1998



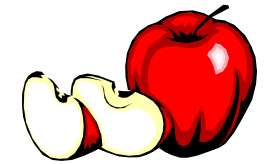
Prepared by PROMAR
International

Contract No. 53-3198-5-024



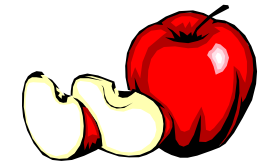
Study Objectives

- Develop national estimates of the type, volume, and dollar value of food acquired by public school districts participating in the NSLP
- Compare the composition and value of foods acquired by SFAs in SY 1984/85 and SY 1996/97.
- Describe current school food purchase practices.



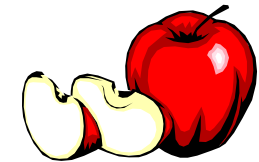
Study Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of 480 school districts stratified by 10 farm production regions
- Sample divided evenly among the four quarters of SY 1996/97
- SFAs provided two types of data
 - Copies of their food procurement records
 - Mail survey of food purchase practices



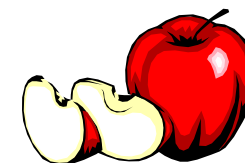
Study Methodology

- Foods were assigned to one of 842 general food descriptions.
- Distinctions were made between product form (fresh, canned, frozen, dried)
- Data were aggregated into 16 groups and 65 subgroups
- Estimates of volume or weight were net weight measured in pounds

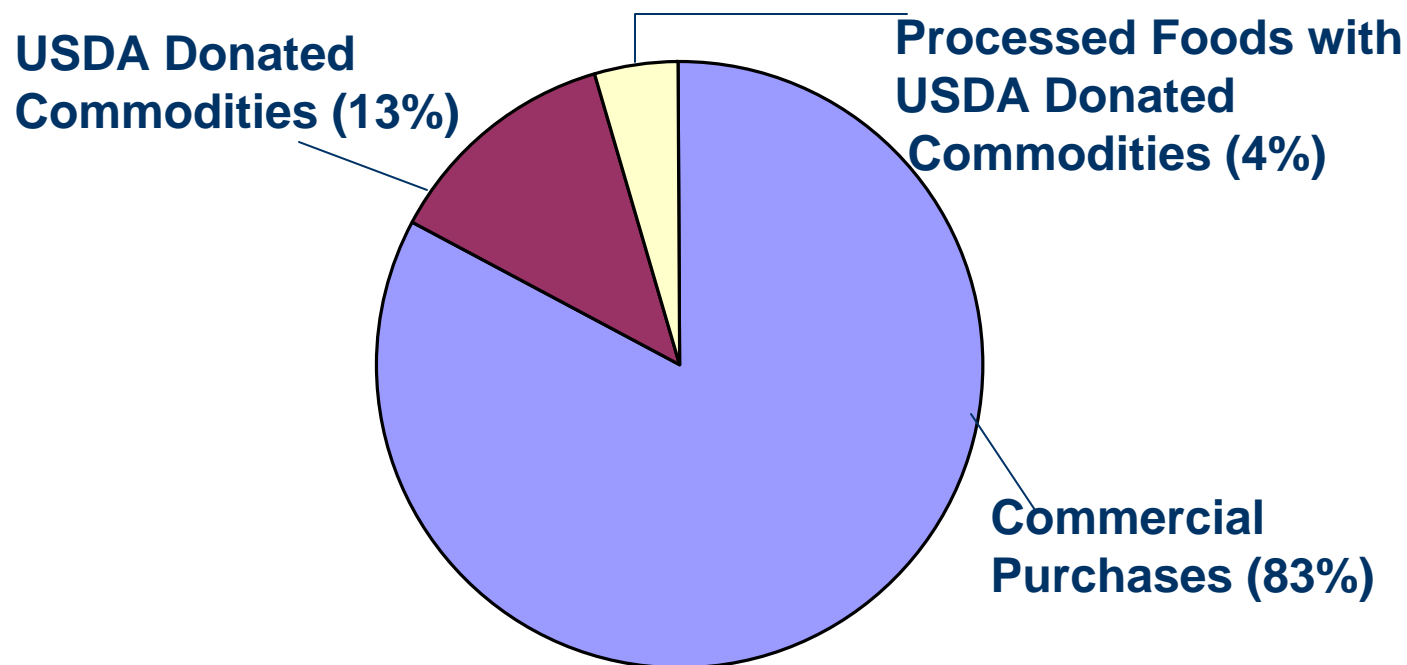


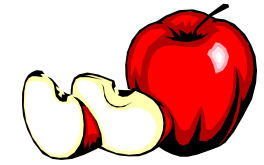
School Food Acquisitions SY 1996/97

- Public unified NSLP school districts acquired foods valued at more than \$4.6 billion in SY 1996/97.
- School districts acquire a highly diverse assortment of foods. 842 separate food items were identified.
- There are a small number of foods that have universal appeal. Conversely, there are many foods acquired by a narrow segment of the school district market.
- For certain foods, USDA donations are the principal source of supply.



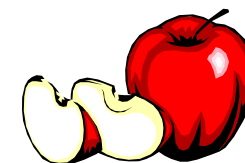
Sources of Food Acquisition





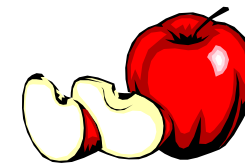
Major Food Acquisition Components

<u>Food Component</u>	<u>Percent of Total Value</u>
Milk & Other Dairy Products	22.7
Bakery Products	11.4
Fruits & Fruit Juices	11.1
Prepared Foods	10.4
Red Meats	9.8
Poultry	9.6
Vegetables	9.1
Other Foods	15.9



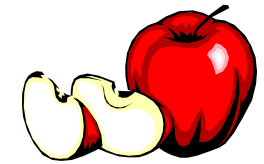
Ten Leading Food Categories Acquired by SFAs in SY 1996/97

<u>Food Category</u>	<u>Percent of Total Value</u>
Fluid Milk	16.1
Pizza	7.0
Ground Beef	5.1
Cheese	4.4
Potatoes	3.8
Chicken Nuggets	2.4
Oranges	2.1
Hamburger/Hot Dog Rolls	2.1
Apples (Fresh, sauce, and juice)	2.0
Fruit Drinks	<u>1.7</u>
Total	46.7



Comparison of School Acquisitions SY 1984/85 and SY 1996/97

- A Changing Market Basket
- Major Changes in Beverage Use
- Increased Use of Fresh Produce
- Reductions in the Role of USDA Donated Commodities



STUDY CONCLUSIONS

- Study provides a rich data base from which national estimates of the foods acquired by public unified school districts have been generated.
- School acquisitions changed between SY 1984/85 and SY 1996/97; major changes in beverage use; increased use of fresh produce; reductions in the role of USDA donated commodities.
- The relationship between procurement practices and food prices is complex. No one food purchasing method is best for all circumstances.