



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of  
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
Family Nutrition Programs  
Juneau

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**March 31, 2015**

**Re: Vendor Notification of Significant Changes to WIC Foods**

The Alaska WIC Program is implementing significant changes that affect Alaskan WIC vendors. Please carefully review the following information and contact Sandy Harbanuk, Vendor Coordinator at (907) 465-3100, [sandra.harbanuk@alaska.gov](mailto:sandra.harbanuk@alaska.gov), or the Vendor Management Unit if you have any questions.

On **March 4, 2014**, USDA Food and Nutrition Service issued the Final Food Rule for WIC. On **June 1, 2015**, Alaska will implement additional changes resulting from the Final Food Rule.

**1) Yogurt added to WIC Approved Food List:** Only low fat or fat-free 32oz. (quart) plain yogurt allowed.

Yogurt has been added to the dairy options for WIC participants. Single serving containers of yogurt are not allowed because they cannot be combined to achieve 32 oz.

If a participant has selected yogurt, it will appear on the check. Yogurt may not be substituted for other dairy products at the store.

Allowed brands of plain, low fat or fat-free yogurt, 32 oz.:

- Brown Cow
- Dannon
- Darigold
- Essential Everyday
- Fred Meyer
- Great Value
- Mountain High
- Nancy's (not organic)
- Safeway/Lucerne
- Western Family

**2) Fruit and Vegetable Vouchers (FVVs) – as of June 1, 2015, FVVs may be used to purchase any fresh, frozen, or canned vegetables, so long as there are no added fats, oils or sugar.** Previously, white potatoes were not approved for purchase with WIC vouchers. All types of potatoes are now approved.

*Because there are many varieties and brands of frozen potatoes, the Alaska WIC Program has requested permission from USDA to delay approval of frozen potato brands until we have had sufficient time to evaluate the products that are on the market and available in Alaska. Until further notice, Alaska WIC participants may purchase only fresh and canned potatoes.*

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- 3) Tofu change:** USDA recently informed state WIC programs that tofu may be allowed only in a 16 oz. package. This change is effective immediately.

The new Allowed Foods List includes only the following brands/types of tofu – 16 oz:

- Azumaya Extra Firm
- Azumaya Firm
- Azumaya Silken
- House Foods (premium) Extra Firm
- House Foods (premium) Firm
- Nasoya Lite Silken
- Nasoya (organic) Silken
- O Organic Silken

- 4) Goat milk** will no longer be allowed after June 1, 2015. Currently, a participant may purchase goat milk only if it is listed on the check.

- 5) Minimum stock requirements** have been adjusted based on changes to the Allowed Foods List over the past year. The minimum stock requirements list has also been edited for consistency, with changes made in red. A copy is attached for your convenience, and it will also be posted on the WIC website at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/nutri/wic/vendors/default.aspx>.

The “**WIC Accepted Here**” sign must be posted near the entrance to your store. Enclosed are our newly designed signs to replace the old ones. We believe the new design is more eye-catching, and will require less space for posting. Each A or B store will receive one sign, and each C store will receive two. Additional signs are available for any store that needs them.

Please contact the WIC Vendor Management Unit at [wic@alaska.gov](mailto:wic@alaska.gov) or (907) 465-3100 if you have any questions.