



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

April 5, 2002

**CACFP 02-12**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Institutions Participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program

**FROM:** Arnette Cowan, MS, RD, LDN  
Head, Special Nutrition Programs

**SUBJECT:** Questionable Foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), 226.20-06

A number of inquiries have been received regarding the serving of certain foods in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) as they relate to crediting towards the meal pattern. Questionable foods include foods such as venison, home canned foods, home caught fish, etc., whose safety may be in question as they do not meet the criteria outlined in the Food Crediting Guide. Our policy regarding these questionable foods is to ensure the health and well-being of children participating in the CACFP. This memorandum is intended to clarify the policy regarding the crediting of the following foods.

**Fish:** commercially purchased fish only may be credited in the CACFP due to the danger of pollution and contamination.

**Wild game** (venison, turkey, squirrel, rabbit, etc.): the use of these items is not creditable unless purchased commercially (USDA inspected).

**Home canned foods:** because clostridium botulism in canned foods can produce such a dangerous toxin; home canned foods are not creditable for reimbursement under CACFP. Commercially, frozen and canned vegetables are good source of vitamins and minerals when fresh are not available.

**Honey:** food served to infants (less than one year of age) to which honey has been added is not allowable for reimbursement.

**Surimi** (imitation crabmeat or shrimp): this seafood product is not creditable as a meat/meat alternate under the CACFP.

**Shake-ups:** shake-ups and other similar milk shake type products are not creditable substitutes for milk in the CACFP. If they are served, they are considered an extra food item.

If you have questions, please contact your regional consultant.

AC/ERB/clg

cc: SNP Staff, Auditors

