United States
Department of
Agriculture



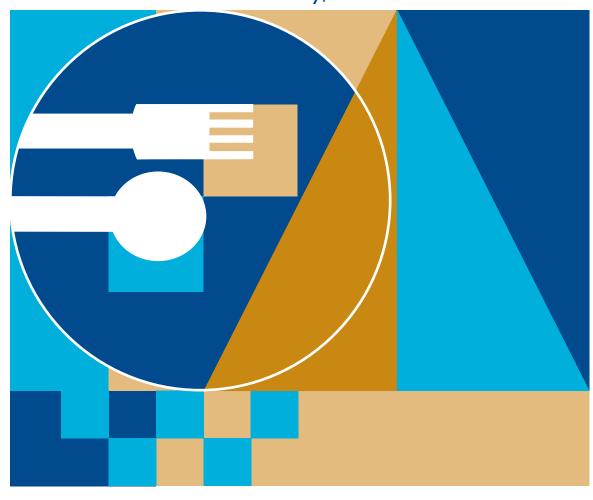
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## Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program

Final Report
Fiscal 2007 Activities

Economic Research for a Healthy, Well-Nourished America





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#### **Chapter 1. The Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program**

In 1998, USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) created the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program (FANRP) to study and evaluate the Nation's domestic food and nutrition assistance programs, including the Food Stamp Program, the child nutrition programs, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). FANRP's mission is to conduct "economic research for a healthy, well-nourished America." Since its establishment, FANRP has become the premier source of food and nutrition assistance research in the United States. FANRP has supported research on a wide range of policy-relevant food and nutrition assistance topics, resulting in over 600 peer-reviewed publications. FANRP has also enhanced national surveys by adding a food assistance dimension and broadened the participation of social science and nutrition science scholars in food assistance and nutrition policy issues.

This report provides a summary of FANRP and its activities in fiscal 2007. Chapter 1 provides a general overview of the program and includes a discussion of some of FANRP's key accomplishments in previous years. Chapter 2 focuses solely on FANRP activities in fiscal 2007 (October 1, 2006-September 30, 2007) and includes a summary of all extramural projects funded in fiscal 2007 and a discussion of the year's key research accomplishments. Chapter 3 provides a list of all FANRP-sponsored publications released in fiscal 2007 as well as those released in previous years. Appendix A lists all the institutions, universities, and government agencies that have been awarded FANRP projects since FANRP started in 1998 and appendix B identifies those who served as peer reviewers for FANRP's Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program in fiscal 2007.

#### Research Goal

Food assistance and nutrition programs receive substantial Federal funding and affect the daily lives of millions of Americans. For example, in fiscal 2007, monthly participation in the Food Stamp Program averaged 26.5 million Americans at an annual cost of

about \$33 billion. On a typical school day, some 10.1 million children participated in the School Breakfast Program and 30.6 million children participated in the National School Lunch Program, which together cost \$10.9 billion. On average, WIC served 8.3 million people each month at an annual cost of \$5.5 billion. At some point during the year, one in five Americans are estimated to participate in at least one of USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs. Expenditures for all of the food and nutrition assistance programs totaled \$54.3 billion in fiscal 2007. Given the significance of the food and nutrition assistance programs, it is important that FANRP provide objective, scientifically rigorous studies and evaluations. Our goal is a high-quality, multidisciplinary program that focuses on today's problems while addressing tomorrow's issues.

#### **Research Themes**

FANRP's research on the food and nutrition assistance programs is designed to meet the critical needs of USDA, Congress, program managers, program participants, the research community, and the public at large. The three core areas of FANRP research are as follows:

- Program Outcomes and Economic Well-Being of Participants—USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs share the primary goal of ensuring the health of vulnerable Americans by providing access to a nutritionally adequate diet. Economic factors influence participant's behavior and the degree to which program goals are achieved. Through changes in food expenditures, the programs also influence the economic well-being of participants, food security, the depth and severity of poverty, and income volatility.
- Program Access and Economic Determinants of Participation—USDA seeks to ensure access for all who are eligible to participate in its food and nutrition assistance programs. The extent to which eligible individuals participate in programs and the factors that influence those decisions are key to measuring how well the program is reaching its target population. FANRP provides information on the population

being served and on the eligible but unserved population to determine if the program is serving those who are most vulnerable and in need of program resources. Analysis of the economic factors affecting program participation allows policymakers and program analysts to better anticipate and forecast fluctuations in program participation and can influence budgetary decisions for the program.

• Program Dynamics and Efficiency—With increased Federal Government focus on accountability and efficiency, reliable, unbiased information on how the Nation's food and nutrition assistance programs are administered and operated is increasingly important. An essential objective of FANRP is to provide research to policymakers that improves program operations. As such, FANRP has conducted a number of studies mandated by Congress. Because food and nutrition assistance programs interact with various industry sectors and markets, FANRP also conducts research on how the programs impact food prices and farm income.

Within these general themes, priority areas of research are selected annually. In developing the research priorities, FANRP works closely with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the agency responsible for administering the Department's food assistance and nutrition programs. FANRP also seeks input from a broad constituency of policy officials, researchers, practitioners, advocates, industry groups, and service providers.

In conjunction with these activities, FANRP sponsors an annual roundtable discussion, open to the public, to identify crucial research and information needs that would support food assistance and nutrition programs and to ensure the policy and program relevance of the annual research agenda.<sup>1</sup>

## Intramural and Extramural Components

FANRP integrates an intramural and extramural research program. The intramural program, conducted internally by ERS staff, continues ERS's long, distinguished history of conducting rigorous, objective, and policy-relevant research. The intramural program uses ERS's

large research capacity, taking advantage of the agency's internal research capital and specialized knowledge base.

At the same time, FANRP funds extramural research, often conducted jointly with ERS staff, that draws upon the multidisciplinary expertise of outside researchers and the resources of such institutions as the National Academy of Sciences, National Science Foundation, National Bureau of Economic Research, Urban Institute, RAND Corporation, and numerous universities across the country. FANRP funds the extramural projects through contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements.

Findings resulting from both intramural and extramural research are widely disseminated in accordance with FANRP principles.

#### **FANRP Principles**

The program principles behind FANRP ensure the reliability and usefulness of the research.

- Research that meets the needs of all stakeholders program participants, USDA, Congress, and the public.
- Integrated, comprehensive program that conducts research in the broader context of the current and future economic and social environments.
- Broad array of public and private entities directly involved in the research, evaluation, and review efforts.
- Integration of ERS staff expertise in the development, implementation, and accomplishment of research projects.
- Scientifically rigorous studies and evaluations with verifiable and unbiased results.
- Rigorous internal and external review of research results.
- Public availability of data.
- Wide distribution of research findings.
- Development and maintenance of continuous data sets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The fiscal 2007 roundtable discussion, "Food Assistance Research Conference: Recent Findings and Emerging Issues," was held February 13, 2007, at ERS in Washington DC. The conference agenda can be found at www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/ConferenceMaterials/conference2007.htm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>See appendix A for a list of all institutions, universities, and government agencies that have been awarded FANRP projects since its establishment in 1998.

## Key Accomplishments: Fiscal 1998-2006

Since its beginning in 1998, FANRP has conducted a wide range of research activities. This section highlights some of FANRP's key accomplishments during fiscal 1998-2006 in the areas of food and nutrition assistance research, data development, enhancing the research base, and research dissemination.

#### Food Assistance and Nutrition Research

FANRP has developed a multifaceted research plan to address the needs of diverse groups of stakeholders that has resulted in an extensive portfolio of successful research projects. These projects have expanded understanding on a wide range of food and nutrition assistance issues, including program outcomes and economic well-being of participants, program access and economic determinants of participation, program dynamics and efficiency, and program interactions.<sup>3</sup>

## Program Outcomes and Economic Well-Being of Participants

- Prior to FANRP's establishment, extensive research had been conducted on the impact of specific food and nutrition assistance programs on nutrition and health but there had been no overall assessment of the effects of the programs on the diets and health outcomes of participants. In response, one of the first studies commissioned by FANRP was a comprehensive review and synthesis of published research from over 300 publications on the impact of USDA's domestic food and nutrition assistance programs on participants' diet and health. The resulting report—the most systematic and thorough assessment to date of published research on the topic—summarized what is and what is not known about the nutrition- and healthrelated impacts of USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs (Fox et al., October 2004). The outcomes included household nutrient availability, dietary intake, medical biomarkers of nutrition status, food expenditures, food security, birth outcomes, breastfeeding behaviors, immunization rates, use and cost of health care services, and selected nonhealth outcomes, such as academic achievement and school performance of children and social isolation of the elderly.
- A study by Jolliffe et al. (2003) looked at the effect of food stamps on children's overall well-being by adding the value of food stamp benefits to household income

- and measuring the effect on child poverty rates. The "food stamp effect" reduced the number of children in poverty in 2000 by 4 percent. This relatively small effect is largely because the amount of food stamp benefits declines as a household's incomes increases, and while many poor people become less poor due to the value of food stamp benefits, few receive enough food stamps to lift them above the poverty line. However, augmenting income with the value of food stamp benefits reduced the depth of child poverty (the amount of income needed to raise income to the poverty threshold) by 20 percent or more. The study shows the insufficiency of examining the effect of food stamps on only the incidence of poverty, which leads to the incorrect conclusion that food stamps do not have much impact on reducing child poverty.
- Wilde and Ranney (2000) were the first to use nationally representative data to examine the food stamp cycle—monthly cycles in food expenditures and food intake among food stamp households. Average food spending by food stamp households was found to peak sharply in the first 3 days after food stamps were received. Food energy intake patterns differed by how frequently the food stamp household made major grocery shopping trips. For food stamp households that shopped frequently, food energy intake remained steady over the course of the food stamp month. However, for food stamp households who made major grocery shopping trips only once per month, mean food energy intake dropped significantly. This cycle of food spending leaves some households with less food intake late in the month.
- FANRP has played a major role in Federal research on food security in the United States. One FANRP-funded study looked at the issue of whether public assistance programs (including food stamps, Medicaid, and cash benefits) reduce the probability that vulnerable households experience food insecurity (Borjas, 2004). The study took advantage of a "natural experiment" when Federal welfare reform legislation limited the eligibility of immigrant households to receive assistance, while some States chose to continue offering Statefunded assistance to immigrant households. The study exploited these changes in eligibility rules to examine the link between food insecurity and public assistance. Results indicate that a 10-percent cut in the share of the immigrant population that receives public assistance increased the share of immigrant food-insecure households by about 5 percentage points. The study not only provides evidence that welfare programs improve food security, it also suggests that, while

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>See chapter 3 for a complete list of all FANRP-supported research publications.

- tightening welfare eligibility rules can reduce welfare costs, such action can have adverse outcomes.
- FANRP has also advanced understanding of the economic factors and behaviors that affect obesity, a national epidemic that disproportionately affects the poor. One much-publicized FANRP-funded study quantified the effect of maternal obesity on preschooler obesity (Whitaker, 2004). The study found that maternal obesity in early pregnancy more than doubles a child's risk of obesity at ages 2-4. As a result of this study, a new nutrition risk criterion—"at risk of becoming overweight"—was added to the allowable criteria used to establish WIC program eligibility. The new criterion makes low-income infants and children with obese parents at risk of becoming overweight and therefore eligible for WIC.
- FANRP research suggests that measures of the prevalence of overweight among children understate the extent of this public health problem. A study of children from 1971 to 2001 found that not only have more children become overweight in the last three decades, but overweight children have been getting heavier (Jolliffe, 2004). In fact, the severity of child overweight has been increasing faster than the prevalence of child overweight regardless of age, sex, race or ethnicity. These findings could have important health implications since it is likely that very overweight children, like adults, are more likely to suffer health problems than the less overweight.

## Program Access and Economic Determinants of Participation

• The dramatic decline in food stamp caseloads in the late 1990s led policymakers and analysts to focus on the broad question of what factors influence Food Stamp Program participation, including the possible role of local food stamp office policies and practices in encouraging or deterring household participation decisions. FANRP sponsored a national study of Food Stamp Program accessibility at the local office level. The study collected information on the policies and practices of 109 local food stamp offices, the characteristics of participant and nonparticipant households in surrounding areas, and the reasons that some eligible households do not participate in the Food Stamp Program (Bartlett et al., 2004; Bartlett and Burstein, 2004; and Gabor et al., 2003). The study identified a number of practices that vary across offices and appear to be significant in participation decisions.

- In 2005, FANRP evaluated USDA's Elderly Nutrition Demonstrations—six pilot projects aimed at testing ways to increase Food Stamp Program participation among eligible elderly individuals (Cody and Ohls, 2005). Historically, the low-income elderly participate in the Food Stamp Program at relatively low rates. USDA designed three models, each using different techniques to reduce the barriers that seniors face in participating in the program. The techniques involved reducing the time and effort of applying for benefits, aiding seniors in navigating the application process, and giving seniors the option of receiving commodity packages instead of getting benefits through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. The study found that demonstration models can increase the number of participating seniors by 20-35 percent but that costs can be significant, ranging from \$402 to \$3,800 per participant.
- To better target benefits from the Child and Adult Care Food Program on low-income children, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 established a two-tier structure of meal reimbursement rates for family child care homes. The Act applied higher rates to homes in low-income areas or operated by low-income people. In a report to Congress, FANRP assessed the impact that the new tiered-meal reimbursements have had on sponsoring organizations, participating and dropout homes, and children cared for by participating homes (Hamilton et al., March 2002a). A key finding from the study was that tiering was successful in refocusing the family child care homes component of the program on serving low-income children.

#### Program Dynamics and Efficiency

- A core objective of FANRP is to provide research to policymakers that improves program operations. One study examined the prevalence of direct certification of children for school meals, its implementation methods, and its effects on program access and integrity (Gleason et al., 2003b). Direct certification is a procedure whereby school districts use information from State welfare or food stamp offices to certify children to receive free meals instead of requiring families to fill out applications. It was designed primarily to improve National School Lunch Program access and administrative efficiency.
- Congressionally mandated studies completed by FANRP have been particularly instrumental in informing policy decisions regarding program dynamics and

- administration issues. For example, FANRP provided an evaluation of the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program—a program established by the 2002 Farm Act to promote fresh fruit and vegetable consumption among the Nation's schoolchildren (Buzby et al., 2003). The pilot demonstrated the feasibility of such a program and its success as determined by the students' interest in participating. Results from this study led to the program being continued and expanded.
- FANRP research has been instrumental in improving our understanding of how the WIC program operates, especially in the area of cost-containment. Because food costs account for about three-quarters of the total cost of the program, State WIC agencies have implemented a number of practices designed to contain food costs, the primary one is the use of infant formula rebates. Typically, WIC State agencies obtain large discounts in the form of rebates from infant formula manufacturers. As a result of the rebates, the costs to WIC for each can of formula provided through the program have two components: (1) net wholesale price, which is equal to the wholesale price of formula minus the amount of the rebate, and (2) retail markup. Oliveira and Davis (2006) found that the retail markup accounts for most (about 60 percent) of the cost to WIC of infant formula in most States. However, both retail markup and net wholesale price have increased over time. Since WIC is a discretionary program with fixed funding, higher costs mean that fewer people will be served or that additional funds need to be appropriated.
- WIC agencies have implemented cost-containment practices in addition to infant formula rebates. These practices include limiting authorized food vendors (such as supermarkets and grocery stores) to outlets with lower food prices; limiting food-item selection according to brand, package size, form, or price (for instance, only allowing generic cereals or requiring purchase of least-cost items); and negotiating rebates with food manufacturers or suppliers. Concerns had been raised that, if cost-containment policies are overly restrictive, WIC participants' access to and consumption of prescribed foods may be reduced. Some also questioned whether cost-containment practices save enough in food costs to offset their additional administrative costs. A congressionally mandated study to assess the impacts of WIC cost-containment practices (other than the use of infant formula rebates) found that the cost-containment practices resulted in substantial food cost savings (reducing food costs by an average of 15 percent), had few adverse impacts on WIC participants, and were relatively inexpensive to

- manage and operate (Kirlin et al., 2003). The study, the first to examine the balance struck by WIC between the goals of nutritional improvement and customer satisfaction and the need to make the most of available program funds, provides strong evidence that cost-containment practices can be effective without jeopardizing WIC program goals.
- FANRP also sponsored the first comprehensive government study of the Emergency Food Assistance System (EFAS). The study provided detailed information about the system's operations, the five major types of organizations involved in EFAS (emergency kitchens, food pantries, food banks, food rescue organizations, and emergency food organizations), and how EFAS fits within the context of USDA's food and nutrition assistance programs (Ohls and Saleem-Ismail, August 2002).

#### **Program Interactions**

Food and nutrition assistance programs are intrinsically linked to the economy. That is, the health of the general economy affects the use of USDA's food assistance programs. Conversely, food assistance programs affect industry and the general economy. FANRP studies have shed considerable light on this two-way relationship between the food and nutrition assistance programs and the economy.

- As a means-tested entitlement program, the Food Stamp Program automatically responds to changes in the need for assistance. Caseloads tend to rise during recessionary periods and fall during economic expansions. Hanson and Gundersen (2002), summarizing a number of FANRP studies, found that a 1-percentage-point increase in the national unemployment rate—a key indicator of the health of the general economy—results in about 700,000 more food stamp recipients during the first year and about 1.3 million additional recipients in the long run. The additional program benefits help to stabilize the overall economy and to direct Federal spending to areas most in need of assistance when the economy turns downward and unemployment rises.
- Because food assistance programs generate demand for food and farm products, changes in food assistance policy can have impacts on economic activity and household income across the economy. Using an econometric model that provides policymakers with a mechanism for examining economywide distributional impact of potential policy changes,

Hanson et al. (2002) found that a hypothetical budgetneutral cut in food stamp benefits leads to reductions in food demand and farm production. Specifically, a \$5 billion cut in food stamp benefits leads to decreases in farm and food processing production of approximately \$1.3 billion and 7,500 jobs lost. On the other hand, a \$5 billion increase in food stamp benefits leads to increases in farm and food processing production of approximately \$1.3 billion and 7,500 jobs gained.

 Another FANRP study demonstrated how a food assistance program can have an economic impact on nonparticipants through the price of program commodities. WIC purchases over half of all infant formula sold in the United States. Because of its buying power, WIC gets large discounts in the form of rebates from infant formula manufacturers. These rebates support about one-quarter of all WIC participants. Based on the most comprehensive national study of retail infant formula prices ever conducted, Oliveira et al. (2004) found that WIC and its rebate program modestly raised the supermarket price of infant formula, especially in States with a high percentage of infants participating in WIC. That is, while WIC and its infant formula rebate program have been successful in terms of making infant formula available to needy infants at a low monetary cost, an indirect effect of the program is higher retail prices for non-WIC consumers.

#### **Data Development**

Data development is a high priority in FANRP because data sustain the program's research on food assistance programs and the environment in which they operate. An early FANRP study provided a comprehensive review and evaluation of national data sources for their potential for analyzing the impact of USDA's food assistance and nutrition programs on nutrition- and health-related outcomes. The resulting report provided an inventory of data sources (mostly national level) that can be used as a foundation for future food-assistance-related research (Logan et al., 2002). The report assessed data sources and identified those most worthy of investigation. Each data source was evaluated against three criteria: coverage of both program participants and nonparticipants, identification of participants and determination of eligibility among nonparticipants, and availability of impact measures. Thirteen data sources were classified as principal sources that appear to have the greatest potential for conducting research on food assistance and nutrition programs outcomes. Another 13 sources could be made more useful for food assistance research if questions were incorporated to fill gaps in relevant information.

Investments in new and ongoing data collections provide a critical foundation for addressing new and emerging food assistance issues. FANRP funding has enhanced food assistance data collection in a number of nationwide surveys:

- Since 1998, FANRP has sponsored the annual Food Security Supplement to the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The supplement provides the data used to develop national statistics on food insecurity.
- FANRP also provides funding for the U.S. Department of Education's Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS), which is made up of two cohorts that provide national data on children's status at birth and at various points thereafter through the fifth grade. Data from the ECLS are being used to test hypotheses about the effects of food assistance programs on a range of issues, including children's development, school performance, and obesity.
- FANRP also helps support the collection of information about the nutritional status and diet of food assistance program participants through the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

#### **Expanding the Research Base**

FANRP's extramural research component uses two main mechanisms to promote research from a broad arena—the Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program and the RIDGE program.

## The Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program

This program awards grants and cooperative agreements up to \$400,000. The program is announced publicly via the ERS website, ERS e-mail updates, and postings on various listservs (e-mail-based discussion forums). The proposal evaluation process includes peer review panels consisting of experts from academia, government, and the private sector. In addition to reviewer's comments, FANRP's selection process considers coverage of priority research areas, overlap between proposals and ongoing projects, program needs, potential benefits from research collaborations on particular projects, and availability of funding. FANRP's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Appendix B identifies those who served as peer reviewers for the Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program in fiscal 2007.

competitive grants and cooperative agreements program, with a description of the application process, typically is announced each year in mid-March. The deadline for submission of proposals is generally in late May, and the awards are announced in mid-October.

In fiscal 2006, FANRP implemented Grants.gov application procedures to the Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program. Grants.gov uses electronic technology to enhance the process of tracking Federal grant opportunities. Applicants can both search for and apply for grant funds online through a single access point (i.e., a common website), dramatically streamlining the application, review, and award process. Applications to the Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program are allowed in paper as well as in electronic form.

## The Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) Program

Formerly known as the Small Grants Program, the program was renamed the Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) program in 2006. The new name better reflects the program's purposes: (1) to stimulate new and innovative research on food and nutrition policy issues and (2) to broaden the participation of social science scholars in the research effort.

The program supports both quantitative and qualitative research methods to explore economic, nutrition, and health outcomes of participation in USDA food assistance programs as well as issues surrounding program implementation and delivery. RIDGE grants last for 1 year; most are in the range of \$20,000-\$40,000.<sup>5</sup> Funded by ERS, the RIDGE program is administered through selected universities and their associated research institutes located at five sites. Each of the five institutions takes a different aspect of food assistance, nutrition, or subgroup of recipients as its primary focus. The five institutions and their area of focus are as follows:

The Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago—Interactions between food assistance and other welfare programs and linkages between the macroeconomy and food assistance.

Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin—Understanding the relationships among the food assistance safety net, poverty, and well-being.

The American Indian Studies Program at the University of Arizona—The relationship between family poverty and food assistance programs among Native Americans.

The Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State University—The relationship between food assistance and rural people, families, and communities in the South.

The Department of Nutrition at the University of California, Davis—The impact of food assistance programs on nutritional risk indicators (clinical, anthropometric, biochemical, and dietary), food purchasing practices, and food insecurity.

A list of all RIDGE projects and summaries, searchable by keyword(s), research institution, investigator, and year awarded, is available at http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/Funding/RIDGEprojects.asp

#### **Research Dissemination**

In accordance with program principles (see box, p. 2), FANRP strives to make all of its research readily available and in accessible formats for a variety of technical and nontechnical audiences. To do this, FANRP uses publications and hosts and participates in various conferences. ERS-produced reports are the primary vehicle for documenting and showcasing FANRP research. ERS publishes an array of outputs for a variety of purposes and audiences. In 2005, ERS revamped its publication series. Economic Research Reports (ERRs) are a departmental series and are available in both paper and electronic form. These technical or semitechnical reports present original economic analysis, findings, and implications primarily for public decisionmakers and researchers.

Other departmental series include Economic Briefs (EBs) and Economic Information Bulletins (EIBs). These nontechnical publications, intended for a broader audience, provide concise, timely insights from recent ERS research. *The Food Assistance Landscape* is an EIB that is published annually. It provides an overview of USDA's domestic food assistance programs, including recent program statistics,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>FANRP sponsors an annual RIDGE Program Conference in which grant recipients present the results of their work on food assistance programs, food security, and nutrition. A copy of the agenda for the 2006 conference held on October 11-12, 2007, at ERS in Washington, DC, can be found at http://www.ers.usda.gov/ConferenceCenter/FANRP/FANRPOctober07/Agenda.htm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>ERRs replaced the Food and Nutrition Research Report (FANRR) series.

information on related economic and social indicators, and highlights of recent FANRP research (Oliveira, February 2007).

Contractor and Cooperator Reports (CCRs), which result from FANRP's extramural research program and are available in electronic form only, are a component of the ERS effort to serve the public with e-government technologies and the ERS website.<sup>7</sup> The views expressed in CCRs, unlike reports in the departmental series, are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ERS or USDA (FANRP, in accordance with program principles, makes its research publicly available). In addition to the series of reports, articles on food assistance and nutrition-related topics are often featured in the ERS periodical, *Amber Waves*. All ERS publications are available at the ERS website.

FANRP research targeted to narrower, more technical audiences can be found in a wide range of professional journals.

Each year, ERS staff also present findings from FANRP research at numerous professional meetings across the country. The meetings are sponsored by such groups as the American Association of Food Stamp Directors, the National WIC Association, the School Nutrition Association, the American Public Human Services Association, the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics, the Society for Nutrition Education, the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, and the American Agricultural Economics Association.

To encourage interaction among researchers and policymakers, FANRP organizes and sponsors conferences and workshops. Two are held annually—the RIDGE Program Conference and the Food Assistance Research Conference: Recent Research and Emerging Issues. Other conferences, often co-sponsored with other institutions, are hosted to address timely and policy-relevant topics. For example, in fiscal 2007, FANRP and the National Poverty Center co-sponsored a conference on Income Volatility and Implications for Food Assistance Programs. In previous years, FANRP hosted conferences on Food Security Measurement and Research, Rural Dimensions of Welfare Reform, and the Economics of Obesity.

## FANRP Implements Database of Food and Nutrition Assistance Research

FANRP has compiled an electronic database of over 600 peer-reviewed reports and articles based on FANRP-supported research published at ERS and elsewhere. The database is searchable by:

- Title
- · Lead author
- Topic
- · Year of publication
- · Data set analyzed
- Word(s) or phrases contained in the publication's bibliographic citation

For all ERS-published reports and articles, a link to the full report is provided. The database can be accessed at: www.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/ResearchFindings/

#### **FANRP Tomorrow**

Through its annual identification of priority research areas, FANRP responds to immediate as well as long-term research needs. FANRP will continue to seek input from key constituencies, such as policy officials, program and research leaders, and the Food and Nutrition Service to identify and prioritize research needs. FANRP will also continue to integrate intramural research with its extramural program, enhancing its capacity to address policy and research needs of USDA's food assistance and nutrition programs in a timely, objective, and cost-effective manner.

The following is a list of some of the important research projects funded by FANRP in previous years that are scheduled to be completed in the near future:

- Income Volatility and Its Effect on Food Stamp Participation of the Working Poor
- Food Stamp Use by Legal Immigrants Before and After the 2003 Restorations
- Household Food Security and Tradeoffs in the Food Budget: A Revitalized Engel Approach Including Food Stamps
- WIC and the Economics of Infant Formula Contracts, Rebates, and Wholesale Prices

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>CCRs replaced the Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program's E-FAN series.

- Development of a Questionnaire on Dietary Behavior of Low-Income Population
- Future Costs of Childhood Obesity: Estimates and Implications
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program: Participation and Administration
- Basic Needs, Tough Choices: The Impact of Housing Costs on Food Consumption

#### **Chapter 2. Fiscal 2007 FANRP Activities**

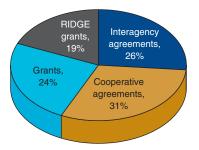
This chapter describes FANRP activities in fiscal 2007. The first section focuses on FANRP's extramural program and includes a description of all FANRP projects funded in fiscal 2007. The second section summarizes some of the key research accomplishments resulting from FANRP's extramural as well as intramural components.

## Extramural Research Program, Fiscal 2007

To meet the program needs of the Department and promote research from a broad arena, FANRP uses several different funding mechanisms in its extramural programs.

Grants and cooperative agreements are used when the intent is to stimulate new and innovative research or to undertake projects jointly with ERS researchers. Grants are awarded when the research project supports the general public good and does not require substantial involvement between ERS staff and the extramural researchers during the performance of the award. Cooperative agreements, awarded when the research project requires more substantial involvement between ERS and the extramural researchers, enable ERS staff to supplement their own expertise with the knowledge and resources of academic and private institutions.<sup>8</sup>

The Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program is publicly announced and competitively awarded based on peer review, research priorities, and availability of funding. Funding for eight cooperative agreements totaled \$1,303,365 in fiscal 2007. In addition, three competitive grants were awarded for Share of Extramural Awards by Type, Fiscal 2007



\$1,169,768. The acceptance rate for proposals of cooperative agreements and grants was about 1 in 2.6, or in dollar terms, roughly \$1 in \$5.

In addition, three cooperative agreements (including amendments to existing agreements) were awarded outside the competitive program just discussed. These agreements, totaling \$163,799 were awarded to fill special research needs of the ongoing internal research program. For example, the largest award, in the amount of \$69,880, explores technical enhancements to improve USDA's measurement of food security based on recommendations by the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT).

The RIDGE program funds grant competitions through five diverse institutions. Each institution focuses on a particular facet of food assistance, such as diet and health outcomes, relationships to poverty and well-being, rural issues, and special at-risk population groups. Funding for the program totaled \$899,772 in fiscal 2007.

Interagency agreements are used to enhance food assistance data development through cost-sharing partnerships and to fund cooperative interagency research on program interactions and policy issues. Funding for interagency projects totaled \$1,269,767, including funding for data collection in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies, and the Food Security Supplement to the Current Population Survey.

In previous years, contracts have been used when a very specific product is required, such as data collection. No contracts were awarded in fiscal 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>There are two types of cooperative agreements: cooperative research agreements and assistance-type cooperative agreements. In a cooperative research agreement, ERS staff and the extramural researcher(s) are close collaborators and contributors to support the research. In an assistance-type cooperative agreement, the extramural researcher(s) are responsible for conducting the greater part of the work on the project. Cooperative research agreements require both parties to contribute to the funding of the project; assistance-type cooperative agreements do not have this joint funding requirement.

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Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
Food Choices: Economic Determinants and Consequences		
Food Demand in Low-Income Households University of Tennessee	To estimate the effects of food prices and household income on the demand for fruits, vegetables, and other food products in low-income households, using data from the ACNielsen Homescan panel survey of household food purchases and the National Food Stamp Program Survey. The research will expand on earlier work by focusing on low-income households and using a hierarchical demand model to examine demand for subgroups of foods within the broader food categories.	\$130,000
Identifying Behavioral Economics Factors Affecting Food Consumption University of Chicago	To collect and link information on individuals' food intake and time use throughout the day with psychological and cognitive factors to gain insight into new strategies to improve dietary choices. Using contemporary behavioral economics concepts, the study will develop and test new survey questions for measuring psychosocial and cognitive factors that have proven fruitful in understanding consumer behavior in other areas.	\$399,773
Measuring Consumption Response to Prices in a Dynamic Model of Consumer Food Purchase Behavior Research Triangle Institute	To analyze the economic determinants of food purchasing and consumption behavior of low-income households, using data from the ACNielsen Homescan panel survey of food purchases. An inventory model will be used to examine shortrun and longrun responses to food prices. The study will also examine the longrun implications of package sizes on overconsumption.	\$249,494
Altering Social and Convenience Costs To Improve Students' Lunch Choices Cornell University	To examine the effectiveness of several behavioral economic and food psychology concepts in encouraging healthier food choices. Three experiments will be conducted. The first will examine the possibility of stigmatizing less healthy food choices or imposing status on healthier food choices through "branding" (such as labeling lighter options "Fresh Bites"). The second will examine whether inconvenience can be used to discourage the purchase of less healthy items without decreasing student satisfaction or reducing cafeteria revenue. The third will examine whether pre-commitment leads to less impulsive, and perhaps healthier, food choices.	\$200,000
The Role of Time Use in Promoting Healthy Energy Balance University of Utah	To examine trends in time use, energy expenditure, and food consumption to gain insights into the changes in energy balance that have led to the increased prevalence of obesity. The project will assess the effect of economic factors, such as wage rates, food stamp eligibility/participation, prices, and income, on energy-balance-related time use, drawing on data from the 2006 American Time Use Survey (ATUS) and the 1975-76 Time Use in Economic and Social Accounts Study.	\$100,000
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Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
Employment Status and Food Stamp Program Participation as Determinants of Eating Patterns of Low-Income Households Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation	To examine how employment and food stamp participation alters meal preparation and consumption patterns. Researchers will use data from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). Statistical methods will be used to account for the simultaneity of program participation and employment decisions and their respective effects on food preparation time and eating patterns.	\$150,000
Food Expenditures by Food Stamp Recipients: Results Using the Consumer Expenditure Survey University of Wisconsin-Madison	To examine the impact of the Food Stamp Program on recipient diet quality (nutrition) and obesity. The study will use the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) to tabulate food expenditures of food stamp recipients and nonrecipients by various sociodemographic characteristics. The study will also investigate underreporting of food stamp participation and benefits in the CE by household types and various sociodemographic characteristics.	\$34,496 1
Economic Incentives and Policy Choices in Food Assistance Programs		
Incorporating Nutrition and Economic Factors Into Planning School Lunch Iowa State University	To model the relationship between foods and nutrients offered in school lunches and what participants actually consume at lunch and over 24 hours using data from the 2005 School Nutrition Dietary Assessment Study (SNDA-III). The model will consider food costs, school environment, and food policy variables, such as the availability of competing foods and vending machines.	\$213,365
The Effects of Subsidized School Meals on Children's Diet Quality Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	To assess the quality of the diets of school meal participants and nonparticipants, using the updated version of USDA's Healthy Eating Index (HEI-2005). Data from the third School Nutrition Dietary Assessment Study (SNDA-III) will be analyzed to determine the effect of school meal participation on students' diet quality.	\$140,000
Assessing Alternative Policies for Improving the School Food Environment University of South Carolina	To examine outcomes associated with State policies governing the school food environment using data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Kindergarten Class of 1998-99 (ECLS-K). Several States have enacted policies that limit foods and beverages sold at schools in competition with USDA school meal programs, as a means of reducing childhood obesity and improving students' diets. Such policies provide an opportunity to conduct a natural experiment of the effectiveness of such measures. Relevant outcomes include the types of food and beverages purchased at school, frequency of consumption for certain foods and beverages, participation in school meal programs, and child weight status.	\$200,000
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Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
The Economic Impact of School Meal Certification Approaches on the Uptake of Free- and Reduced-Price Meals Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	To assess the effects of school- and student-level factors on participation in the USDA school meal programs, using data from the Food and Nutrition Service's Access, Participation, Eligibility, and Certification Study. School-level factors include whether students who are certified for free or reduced-price meals actually participate (i.e., take the meals), use of direct certification, Provision 2 or 3 status, and use of electronic meal payment technology. Student-level factors include household economic, demographic, and food security status, as well as child and parent attitude toward school meals. Reported household school meal certification and participation will also be compared with school administrative data, adding to the understanding of accuracy of program participation reporting.	\$185,000
Interactions Between the Food Stamp Program and the Economy Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	To investigate changes in Food Stamp Program participation as related to measures of economic activity and food stamp policies. In addition to examining effects on the aggregate Food Stamp Program caseload, the study will separately analyze changes in the number of individuals eligible for the program and the participation rate among the eligible. Both static and dynamic models will be estimated using State-level cross-section time-series data from microsimulation models for the period 1999-2006. A select survey of food stamp administrators and community organizations will supplement the analyses.	\$185,000
Food Assistance as an Economic Safety Net		
Impact of Food Stamps and WIC on Health and Longrun Economic Outcomes University of California-Davis	To examine the shortrun impacts of the Food Stamp Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) on health outcomes, such as birthweight, low birthweight births, and infant mortality using "natural experiments" created from variations in the timing of availability of the Food Stamp Program and WIC. The study will link county-level data on program introduction dates and vital statistics. Longitudinal data from the Panel Survey of Income Dynamics (PSID) (1968-2005) will be used to examine the impact of in utero and childhood exposure to the Food Stamp Program on adult outcomes, such as completed education, employment, earnings, income, Body Mass Index, chronic health conditions, and work/activity limitations.	\$99,995
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Research Projects/Awards	Objective
Food Sufficiency, the Role of Food Stamp Program Participation, Duration, and Policies The Urban Institute	To examine the extent to which Food Stamp Program participation and duration of participation affect food sufficiency, using data from the 1996, 2001, and 2004 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) panels and the Food Stamp Program Rules

**Estimated Cost** 

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June 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10	To transmit the form of the fo
Program Participation, Duration, and Policies	participation affect food sufficiency, using data from the 1996, 2001, and 2004 Survey
The Urban Institute	of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) panels and the Food Stamp Program Rules
	Database. The Food Stamp Rules Database provides a unique set of food stamp policy
	variables that show promise as instruments for controlling for selection bias. A number
	of approaches will also be used to examine duration of food stamp participation and its
	effects on food insufficiency.
Assessing Effects of Food Stamps on Child	To investigate problems of identifying Food Stamp Program effects on outcomes when
Outcomes When Program Participation	households do not accurately report program participation. Analyses of National Health

To investigate problems of identifying Food Stamp Program effects on outcomes when	and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) and the Panel Survey of Income	Dynamics (PSID) data will be undertaken to determine the extent of the identification problem for different levels of misreporting of Food Stamp Program participation. A	large range of child nutrition-related outcomes, including diet quality and anthropometric indicators, will be investigated.	
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\$140,000

# Research Outreach

## RIDGE Program

facet of food assistance, such as diet and health outcomes, relationships to poverty and well-being, rural issues, and special at-risk population groups. The five institutions and To stimulate new and innovative research on food assistance programs and to broaden institutions and affiliated research institutes partnered with ERS in 1998 to administer the RIDGE (formerly Small Grants) Program. Each institution focuses on a particular the participation of social science scholars in food assistance research. Five academic areas of focus are as follows:

\$899,772

- Chicago funds proposals on interactions between food assistance and other welfare The Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, University of programs and links between the macroeconomy and food assistance. (\$179,999)
- food assistance research on rural people, families, and communities in the South. The The Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University supports Center also initiated a dialogue among scholars by establishing a Rural South Food Assistance Research Task Force to further articulate research priorities on foodassistance-related issues. (\$180,000) •

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Research Projects/Awards	Objective	Estimated Cost
	• The American Indian Studies Program, University of Arizona is working with Native American scholars at tribal colleges and elsewhere to support research that addresses the unique issues and problems of Native Americans with respect to food assistance. (\$179,802)	
	• The Department of Nutrition, University of California, Davis has awarded small grants for research on the impact of food assistance programs on nutritional risk indicators (anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, and dietary), food purchasing practices, and food insecurity. This program seeks to encourage the study of multiple indicators of nutrition impact and interdisciplinary approaches to integrate epidemiology, economics, or anthropology with nutrition. (\$179,971)	
	• The Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin awards research grants that examine the relationship among the food assistance safety net, poverty, and well-being. (\$180,000)	
Enhanced Food Assistance Research Data		
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Birth Cohort (ECLS-B) National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education	To include the following in the ECLS-B: items on the participation of children and their families in Federal food assistance programs and other public assistance programs, items on child feeding practices, USDA's food security questionnaire module, and measures of children's height and weight.	\$170,754
Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Cohort (ECLS-K) National Center for Education Statistics, Department of Education	To include the following in the ECLS-K: items on children's participation in the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs, items on their families' participation in Federal food assistance programs and other public assistance programs, USDA's food security questionnaire module, and measures of children's height and weight.	\$486,752
Current Population Survey (CPS) Food Security Supplement U.S. Census Bureau	To develop annual estimates of the prevalence of food security in the United States and to provide data for analysis of the determinants of and changes in the level of food security.	\$450,000
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 1999-2004, Food Security Questions U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	To support inclusion of a battery of food security questions in individual interviews of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.	\$135,000
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Research Projects/Awards	Objective	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Committee on National Statistics Funded through the National Science Foundation	To provide core funding for the Committee on National Statistics for such activities as a review of the 2000 Census, poverty estimates for small areas, measuring the effects of social welfare reform, cost-of-living indexes, performance measures for public health programs, the use of statistical formulas in legislation for fund allocation, confidentiality and data access, and other issues.	\$27,261
Exploring Technical Enhancements To Improve Food Security Measurement Iowa State University	To explore technical enhancements to improve USDA's measurement of food security based on recommendations by the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT). The study will consider several enhancements of the statistical model used to assess food security items and construct food security measures.	869,880
Amendments to Ongoing Projects		
Future Costs of Childhood Obesity: Estimates and Implications University of Michigan	To develop national estimates of the long-term costs of youths being overweight. Such estimates will be useful in informing decisions regarding investments in programs for overweight prevention and treatment, as well as related research initiatives. This project will develop novel probabilistic models for estimating long-term direct costs (health care) and indirect costs (missed school, missed work, disability) related to youths being overweight. The project will analyze data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) for the years 2000-2002 for children ages 10-18 in age- and sex-specific Body Mass Index categories, combined with corresponding MEPS-linked National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) data for adults ages 19-35. These data will be supplemented by data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) and the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY). Additional funding was provided to extend the analysis to determine the long-term economic impacts of intervention aimed at preventing or reducing obesity among children.	\$35,000

Note: Information on extramural FANRP research projects awarded in fiscal 2006 can be found in the report Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program: Final Report, Fiscal 2006 Activities. Information on extramural FANRP research projects awarded in fiscal 2005 can be found in the report Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program: Final Report, Fiscal 2005 Activities.

Information on all extramural FANRP research projects awarded before fiscal 2005 can be found in the report Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program: Final Report, Fiscal 2004 Activities. These reports can be accessed at www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/ResearchFindings/

## Key Research Accomplishments, Fiscal 2007

Findings from FANRP's intramural and extramural programs were published in almost 70 ERS research reports or other peer-reviewed scientific journals in fiscal 2007. This section presents highlights from some of these publications in the areas of program outcomes and economic well-being of participants, program access and economic determinants of participation, and program dynamics and efficiency.

## Program Outcomes and Economic Well-Being of Participants

- High rates of overweight and obesity among lowincome populations in the United States have raised questions about whether Federal food and nutrition assistance programs contribute to the problem. Two recent FANRP studies, using different methodologies and sources of data, advance our understanding of the relationship between food and nutrition assistance programs and obesity.
  - \* Ver Ploeg et al. (2007) investigated the extent to which overweight and obesity have increased over time for food stamp recipients and the degree to which increases may simply mirror national trends in overweight and obesity. The study used crosssectional data spanning 1976-2002 to compare food stamp participants with low- and higher income nonparticipants. The most recent data (1999-2002) showed that, in contrast to prior years, women participating in the Food Stamp Program had a Body Mass Index similar to that of income-eligible and moderate-income nonparticipating women and were no more likely to be overweight or obese. For other sex and age groups, the associations between program participation and weight were inconsistent over time and varied by race and ethnicity. These variations illustrate the difficulty of using cross-sectional data to establish causal relationships between food and nutrition assistance program participation and weight status.
  - \* Baum (2007) used longitudinal data to examine the effects of the Food Stamp Program on obesity. The effects of the program were found to differ by gender, level of benefits, and duration of participation. Findings from the study suggest that, for females, current program participation slightly increases the probability of being obese (between 2 and 5 percentage points). Current program participation was not found to significantly affect

- males. However, long-term participation was found to increase obesity for females and males.
- As obesity has come to the forefront of public health concerns, interest is growing in finding ways to guide consumers' food choices for greater benefit to their long-term health. Beyond nutrition guidance and food labeling, few policies influence the food choices of the general population. However, there are mechanisms that directly influence the diets of the billions of Americans who participate in USDA's domestic food and nutrition assistance programs. USDA and other public health agencies historically have provided recommendations on how to make food choices that promote health and prevent disease. Food manufacturers and marketers, on the other hand, have discovered that certain psychological cues, such as packaging and presentation, are efficient ways to increase consumption of their products. Just et al. (2007) used behavioral economics, food marketing, and psychology to identify possible options for improving the diets and health of participants in the Food Stamp Program, WIC, and the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Recognizing that consumption choices are determined by factors other than prices, income, and information broadens the array of strategies that could influence consumer food choices and improve diet and health.
- Food stamp recipients, like other Americans, struggle with nutrition problems that are associated with choice of foods, as well as amounts. Underconsumption of fruits and vegetables—healthful foods that are rich in nutrients while relatively low in calories—is a particular problem. A series of ERS briefs compiled evidence to help answer the question of whether the Food Stamp Program can do more to improve the food choices of participants (Guthrie et al., 2007b). The research considered the influence of income and prices on food choices. It also assessed the economic evidence for the likely success of any policy targeted at getting food stamp recipients to make different food choices through food stamp bonuses or purchase restrictions. Other approaches to changing food choices, including nutrition education and innovative new strategies suggested by behavioral economics literature were examined as well.
- Each year since 1998, FANRP has published an annual statistical report on the level of household food insecurity in the United States that informs policymakers and the public about the extent to which U.S. households consistently have economic access to

- enough food. The 2005 household food security report indicated that, throughout the year, 89 percent of U.S. households were food secure, meaning that they had consistent access to enough food for active healthy lives for all household members at all times during the year (Nord et al., 2006). The remaining 11 percent (12.6 million households) were food insecure. These households, at some time during the year, had difficulty providing enough food for all their members due to a lack of resources.
- ERS researchers also examined the tradeoffs poor households make between food spending and heating and cooling costs (Nord and Kantor, 2006). They found that low-income households, especially those consisting entirely of elderly people, were more likely to experience very low food security during times of the year when home heating and cooling costs were high. In high-cooling States, the chances of very low food security for poor, elderly-only households were 27 percent higher in the summer than in the winter. In high-heating States, the chances of very low food security were 43 percent lower in the summer. The results suggest that for many poor households, the tradeoffs between food spending and seasonally high heating and cooling costs are not easily made without human cost or within a zone of comfort.

## Program Access and Economic Determinants of Participation

• Economic hardships caused by natural disasters can significantly increase the demand for food stamps. In fall 2005, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma devastated areas along much of the U.S. Gulf Coast. Although the Federal response to the disasters received much attention, information about food stamp use provided in a recent FANRP study helped to provide a more complete picture of the use of public assistance following the hurricanes (Hanson and Oliveira, 2007). The resulting physical and economic effects of the hurricanes increased total food stamp benefits issued by about \$1.2 billion, with most of it going to people located in the five Gulf Coast States of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Other States that received large numbers of evacuees from hurricane-affected areas also experienced disproportionate increases in food stamp caseloads. The analysis suggests that, by February 2006, the effect of the disasters on food stamp caseloads and benefits issued at the national level had largely dissipated, even though some individuals and local areas may have experienced disaster-related employment and economic hardships for longer periods.

• Increasing the proportion of pregnant women who join WIC early in their pregnancy is important because previous research suggests that earlier participation improves birth outcomes. Swann (2007) examined factors that influence the timing of prenatal WIC participation among pregnant woman. He found that women with low income, low education, no insurance, and poor health participate in WIC earlier than other women. Automatic WIC eligibility for Medicaid recipients was associated with earlier WIC participation for women experiencing their first pregnancy. WIC participation during a first pregnancy was strongly correlated with earlier WIC participation during a second pregnancy. Thus, outreach toward women pregnant for the first time may be particularly important.

#### **Program Dynamics and Efficiency**

- The Food Stamp Program provides low-income households with supplementary income for food purchases in amounts judged sufficient to purchase healthful, adequate diets. Except those for residents of Alaska and Hawaii, benefits are based on national average food prices. Significant regional differences in food prices, however, can affect how far food stamp benefits can go toward enhancing the diet of low-income consumers in a given region. Leibtag (2007) measured average food prices paid across U.S. regions. Results show that a family of four in the East or West could spend \$32-\$48 more per month for a similar amount of food than the average U.S. household, whereas a household in the South and Midwest could spend \$12-28 less per month than the average U.S. household.
- In one of the first studies to examine how time resources influence time spent in preparing food, Mancino and Newman (2007) found that individual and household characteristics, such as income, employment status, gender, and family composition, affect food preparation decisions. Full-time work and single-parent status appear to affect time allocated to preparing food more than an individual's earnings or household income do. The results are relevant for the design of food assistance programs because food stamp households are increasingly headed by a single parent or two working parents. As this trend continues, more low-income households may find it difficult to allocate the time needed to prepare meals that fit within a limited budget and meet dietary requirements.

• Nutrition education is a key component of the WIC program. Federal regulations require the WIC program to offer at least two nutrition education contacts to the participant during each certification period. However, the effect of nutrition education on participants' food consumption behavior is difficult to ascertain. Bell and Gleason (2007) examined whether WIC clients in Washington State changed their foodpurchasing behavior based on the fat content of milk and cheese after receiving nutrition education that

encouraged them to purchase 1-percent and skim milk and low-fat cheese to prevent and reduce obesity. The researchers found no significant change in purchasing patterns among the study participants after the nutrition education intervention. Focus group participants explained that taste preference, pressure from family members, and historical purchasing patterns influenced their choice of milk or cheese more than WIC nutrition education. The results point out the difficulty of changing food consumption behavior.

#### **Chapter 3. FANRP Publications**

This chapter provides a list of all publications sponsored by FANRP (either directly or through the RIDGE Program). A list of all the publications released in fiscal 2007 is presented first, followed by a list of all the publications released in previous years. Within each list, two categories of publications are listed: (1) monographs and journal articles, and (2) working/discussion papers. Electronic copies of all ERS publications are available at www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/.

#### **Fiscal 2007 Publications**

#### **Monographs and Journal Articles**

- Alston, J., D. Sumner, and S. Vosti. "Are Agricultural Policies Making Us Fat? Likely Links between Agricultural Policies and Human Nutrition and Obesity, and Their Policy Implications," *Review of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 28, Issue 3, Fall 2006.
- Baron, C., R. Loef, W. McMakin, and S. Aref. *A Study of Locality, Agency, and Individual Characteristics Affecting Food Stamp Program Participation in Virginia*, Contractor and Cooperator Report No. 32, USDA, ERS, August 2007.
- Bartfeld, J., R. Dunifon, M. Nord, and S. Carlson. What Factors Account for State-to-State Differences in Food Security? Economic Information Bulletin No. 20, USDA, ERS, November 2006.
- Baum, C. *The Effects of Food Stamps on Obesity*, Contractor and Cooperator Report No. 34, USDA, ERS, September 2007.
- Baxter, S., R. Royer, J. Hardin, C. Guinn, and A. Smith. "Fourth-Grade Children are Less Accurate in Reporting School Breakfast than School Lunch During 24-Hour Dietary Recalls," *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, Vol. 39, Issue 3, May/June 2007.
- Baxter, S., A. Smith, J. Hardin, and M. Nichols. "Conclusions about Children's Reporting Accuracy for Energy and Macronutrients Over Multiple Interviews Depend on the Analytic Approach for Comparing Reported Information to Reference Information," *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, Vol. 107, No. 4, April 2007.

- Baxter, S., A. Smith, J. Hardin, and M. Nichols. "Conventional Energy and Macronutrient Variables Distort the Accuracy of Children's Dietary Reports: Illustrative Data from a Validation Study of Effect of Order Prompts," *Preventive Medicine*, Vol. 44, Issue 1, January 2007.
- Beaulieu, L., ed. Strengthening Our Nation's Food Assistance Programs, RIDGE Program: Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics, Southern Rural Development Center, June 2007.
- Bell, L., and S. Gleason. *Using Point-of-Purchase Data To Evaluate Local WIC Nutrition Education Interventions: Feasibility Study*, Contractor and Cooperator Report No. 26, USDA, ERS, January 2007.
- Bell, L., R. Ledsky, S. Silva, and J. Anthony. *An Assessment of the Impact of Medicaid Managed Care on WIC Program Coordination With Primary Care Services*, Contractor and Cooperator Report No. 33, USDA, ERS, September 2007.
- Brooks, B., R. Rajeshwari, T. Nicklas, S.-J., Yang, and G. Berenson. "Association of Calcium Intake, Dairy Product Consumption with Overweight Status in Young Adults (1995-1996): The Bogalusa Heart Study," *Journal of the American College of Nutrition*, Vol. 25, No. 6, December 2006.
- Bronte-Tinkew, J., M. Zaslow, R. Capps, and A. Horowitz. *Food Insecurity and Overweight among Infants and Toddlers: New Insights into a Troubling Linkage*, Child Trends Research Brief, Publication #2007-20, July 2007.
- Bronte-Tinkew, J., M. Zaslow, R. Capps, A. Horowitz, and M. McNamara. "Food Insecurity Works through Depression, Parenting, and Infant Feeding to Influence Overweight and Health in Toddlers," *The Journal of Nutrition*, Vol. 137, Issue 9, September 2007.
- Brown, B., C. Noonan, and M. Nord. "Prevalence of Food Insecurity and Health-Associated Outcomes and Food Characteristics of Northern Plains Indian Households," *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, Vol.1, Issue 4, 2007.

Butte, N., C. Garza, and M. de Onis. "Evaluation of the Feasibility of International Growth Standards for School-Aged Children and Adolescents," *The Journal of Nutrition*, Vol. 137, No. 1, January 2007.

Chouinard, H., D. Davis, J. LaFrance, and J. Perloff. "Fat Taxes: Big Money for Small Change," *Forum for Health Economics & Policy*, Vol. 10, Issue 2, June 2007.

Cullen, K., K. Watson, and I. Zakeri. *Middle School Student Lunch Consumption: Impact of National School Lunch Program Meal and Competitive Foods*, Contractor and Cooperator Report No. 30, USDA, ERS, June 2007.

Deshmukh-Taskar, P., T. Nicklas, S.-J. Yang, and G. Berenson. "Does Food Group Consumption Vary by Differences in Socioeconomic, Demographic, and Lifestyle Factors in Young Adults? The Bogalusa Heart Study," *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, Vol. 107, No. 2, February 2007.

Devaney, B., M. Crepinsek, K. Fortson, and L. Quay. Review of Dietary Reference Intakes for Selected Nutrients: Challenges and Implications for Federal Food and Nutrition Policy, Contractor and Cooperator Report No. 28, USDA, ERS, February 2007.

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# Appendix A. Institutions, Universities, and Government Agencies Awarded FANRP Projects, Fiscal 1998-2007

#### Institutions

Abt Associates Inc.

ACNielsen ATMS

Boston Medical Center Brookings Institution

Cancer Research Center of Hawaii

Channing Laboratory, Brigham and Woman's Hospital

Child Trends

Children's Hospital Medical Center (Cincinnati)

Committee on National Statistics Health Systems Research Information Resources, Inc.

**IQ** Solutions

Life Sciences Research Organization

Lewin Group Macro International

Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation

Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. National Academy of Sciences

National Bureau of Economic Research

National Science Foundation

ORC Macro, Inc.

Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

**RAND** Corporation

Research Triangle Institute, Inc. Resource Network International Rockefeller Institute of Government Society for Nutrition Education

Sphere Institute

United Nations University Centre

Urban Institute

World Health Organization

#### Universities

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Auburn University Baylor University Boston University

Carnegie Mellon University

Cornell University

George Washington University

Harvard University Iowa State University Johns Hopkins University Northwestern University Louisiana Tech University

Medical College of Georgia Research Institute, Inc.

Middle Tennessee State University North Carolina State University Nova Scotia Agricultural College

Oregon State University Mississippi State University South Dakota State University

Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Arizona

University of Baltimore

University of California, Berkeley University of California, Davis

University of Chicago University of Georgia University of Houston University of Illinois

University of Kansas Medical Center

University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
University of Notre Dame
University of North Carolina

University of Nevada
University of New Mexico
University of Oregon
University of South Carolin

University of South Carolina University of Southern Mississippi

University of Tennessee University of Utah

University of West Virginia University of Wisconsin

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

## **Government Agencies**

Agricultural Research Service, USDA
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, USDA
Food and Drug Administration
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
National Agricultural Library, USDA
National Center for Education Statistics, U.S.
Department of Education

South Carolina Social Services
U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
USDA Graduate School
Virginia Department of Social Services

# Appendix B. Peer Reviewers for the Competitive Grant and Cooperative Research Program, Fiscal 2007

Reviewer Institution

Charles Baum Middle Tennessee State University, Economics and Finance Department

Andrea Beller University of Illinois-Urbana, Department of Agricultural

and Consumer Economics

Jay Bhattacharya Stanford School of Medicine, Center for Health Policy
Marianne Bitler University of California, Irvine, Department of Economics

Margaret Bogle USDA, Agricultural Research Service

Nancy Burstein Abt Associates

Andrea Carlson USDA, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion

John Cawley Cornell University, Department of Policy Analysis and Management

Tae Chong National WIC Association

Hayley Chouinard Washington State University, School of Economic Sciences
Elizabeth Davis University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics
Stephano DellaVigna University of California, Berkeley, Department of Economics

Rosemarie Downer USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

James Eales Purdue University, Department. of Agricultural Economics

John Endahl USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

George Frisvold University of Arizona, Department of Agricultural

and Resource Economics

Edward A. Frongillo University of South Carolina, Department of Health Promotion,

Education, and Behavior

Sara Gable University of Missouri, Human Development and Family Studies

Christina Gibson-Davis Duke University, Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy

Anne Gordon Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.
Kenneth Hanson USDA, Economic Research Service
Geraldine Henchy Food Research and Action Center
Doug Hess George Washington University

Ted Joyce National Bureau of Economic Research

Henry Kinnucan Auburn University, Department of Agriculture and Rural Sociology

John Kirlin USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

Sibylle Kranz Pennsylvania State University, Department of Nutritional Sciences

Gayaneh Kyureghian USDA, Economic Research Service Fred Lesnett USDA, Food and Nutrition Service

Patricia McLean-Meyinsse Southern University and A&M College, Department of

Agricultural Economics

Bruce Meyer University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy Studies

Chad Meyerhoefer U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Healthcare

Research and Quality

Bradford Mills Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Department of

Agricultural and Applied Economics

Robert Moffitt Johns Hopkins University, Department of Economics

Theresa Nicklas Baylor College of Medicine, Children's Nutrition Research Center Terry O'Toole U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention

Isabel Rose Marist College, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Salma Shariff-Marco U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Cancer Institute
Paul Strasberg U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Evaluation

#### Reviewer

James Sullivan Mario Teisl Ulrich Toensmeyer Katherine Tucker Michael Wiseman Wen You

James Ziliak

### Institution

University of Notre Dame, Department of Economics
University of Maine, Department of Resource Economics and Policy
University of Delaware, Department of Food and Resource Economics
Tufts University, Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging
George Washington University, Institute for Public Policy
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University,
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics
University of Kentucky, Department of Economics