



FOOD JOURNAL

Volume XVIII, Number 8 - August 20, 2004

FRAC ESTIMATES STATES' FAILURE TO REACH 3.2 MILLION NEEDY CHILDREN WITH SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

Only one in five of the 16 million children who receive free or reduced price school lunches on a typical day during the regular school year is served by federal nutrition programs during the summer, according to the new report "Hunger Doesn't Take A Vacation" from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC).

In July 2003 (the latest state-by-state data available), 3.2 million children from low-income families received meals at parks, schools, religious congregations, and other community sites through either the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

"We are dismayed that the nation is leaving millions of children without access to nutritious meals in summer months," said FRAC President Jim Weill. "Millions of kids who rely on school meals for nine months of the year are unnecessarily going hungry for the other three. This can ruin their summers and makes them less prepared for school in the fall."

The report notes that the federal, state and local governments, schools, and community-based organizations that are serving meals to children in summer months are doing important work. "They are fighting childhood hunger,

keeping children's minds and bodies active, and bringing important federal resources into hard-pressed neighborhoods," said Weill. "There are, however, far too few such programs. We challenge public and private programs to step up to the plate for hungry children and bring the Summer Nutrition Programs to scale."

FRAC's report ranks states by assessing their performance in reaching needy youngsters with either SFSP or NSLP summer meals, compared to regular school year meals. If states performed just at the level achieved by those states with the best records in recent years (40 students served in the summer for every 100 served during the regular school year), FRAC estimates the federal programs would feed another 3.2 million children in low-income communities and provide a total of \$166 million in additional federal funds in communities across the nation.

The FRAC report contains state-by-state analysis of the size of the shortfalls in numbers of children and total dollars. It analyzes long-term as well as new barriers put in the way of feeding more hungry children in summer, such as state and local budget cuts to summer school programming.

One proven strategy for ratcheting up participation has simplified cost accounting and paperwork and allowed for modestly higher meal reimbursement rates in 13 states. The "Lugar pilot" project was proposed by Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) and enacted by Congress in 2000.

Taken as a whole, participation in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2003 increased by 13.1 percent in Lugar pilot states, while participation in the rest of the country decreased by 2.5 percent.

The successful Lugar pilot strategy is expected to further help expand summer feeding in 2005. In June 2004, as part of child nutrition reauthorization, Congress voted to extend the Lugar pilot rules to more states (19 total) and to more types of sponsors (non-profit as well as public institutions). FRAC and its allies are working on implementation strategies to realize the potential of these and other provisions of the new child nutrition reauthorization law.

America's Second Harvest President Robert Forney said, "FRAC's report underscores how important it is for food banks and other community groups as well as schools and public agencies to use the new opportunities Congress has just given us to get more federally-funded meals to hungry children in the summer months."

During the school year, school lunches and breakfasts can provide more than one half of the nutrients low-income children consume every weekday. When children lose access to these meals, they and their families are hard-pressed to fill the gap.

The SFSP is a program operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides funds for eligible sponsoring organizations (schools, public agencies and non-profits) to serve nutritious meals in the summer to children 18 or younger at approved sites that are in low-income areas, or that serve a group of children most of whom are low-income. NSLP, also operated by USDA, provides per meal cash reimbursements to serve nutritious school meals to low-income children in school during the summer.

For a complete copy of the report, go to www.frac.org/SFSP/SFSP_Report_2004.pdf.

TEXAS EARNS AWARDS FOR 2003 FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The Texas Food Stamp Program received three awards for outstanding service and financial management at a Bi-Regional Conference in New Orleans in June. The Texas program was judged along with five other states in the Southwest Region.

The Texas program earned one of the regional group's most prestigious awards, the Southwest Region Director's Award for high payment accuracy, low negative error rates, quality control accuracy, high application timeliness rates and expedited cases. Texas also received a Pinnacle Award for its "commitment to maintaining high payment accuracy and customer access," and a Financial Management Award for accuracy in initial budget projections because it came in 5.39 percent under its projected budget for 2003.

Since 2001, Food Stamp Program participation in Texas has increased by nearly 64 percent from 1.36 million participants to 2.23 million participants — nearly double the national growth rate in other states for the same time period. Despite this growth, Texas has maintained its payment and financial accuracy.

One reason for the caseload increase may be due to the implementation of a Food Stamp Education and Outreach Program. The program includes radio, TV and print advertisements as well as outreach brochures being distributed through food banks and other community partners.

Archived Food Journals are now available on line at www.tacaa.org.

The Food Journal welcomes your comments and ideas for stories. To contact us, please call 462-2555 ext. 203, or e-mail comments and suggestions to foodjournal@tacaa.org.

BREAKFAST PILOT IMPROVES SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

During the 2003-04 school year, nineteen schools in upstate New York participated in a pilot program, Academics & Breakfast Connection Pilot (ABC), designed to produce replicable school breakfast models to improve classroom performance and reduce hunger. In the pilot schools, breakfast was served in the classroom at no charge to students. Students in the pilot schools came from varying levels of income, and pilots were located in rural, urban and suburban areas of the state.

The Nutrition Consortium of New York State issued a report, "*Academics & Breakfast Connection Pilot: Interim Report on New York's Classroom Breakfast Project*" which outlined various approaches to the school breakfast program in pilot schools. For example, in some schools carts are set up in the school foyer for students to pick-up their breakfast as they enter the school. In others, food service staff deliver breakfast directly to their classrooms. The report concludes that classroom breakfast is a great way to increase access to the School Breakfast Program. While 88% of New York State's schools operate the School Breakfast Program, they currently serve only 21% of low-income students.

The report also included highlights reported by pilot schools at the half-year point:

- ABC Pilot programs are serving breakfast to over 5,100 students daily, up from 1,750 served last year.
- 65% of students enrolled in participating pilot classrooms receive breakfast on a daily basis. Last year, these pilot schools served 22% of enrolled students.
- 8 of 14 schools reporting on attendance documented a decline of 23% in absenteeism.
- 8 of 12 schools reporting on tardiness experienced an average decrease of 29%.

- 6 of 11 schools reporting on discipline made fewer disciplinary office referrals, with an average decrease of 49%.
- 9 of 12 schools reporting on student visits to the nurse documented a 24% average decline in visits.

For additional information about the pilots, visit www.HungerNYS.org.

CALENDAR

- **October 1 - 3, 2004.** The American Community Gardening Association presents their 2004 conference, "Gardens of Diversity - Growing Across Cultures" in Toronto, Ontario, Canada at the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto. Workshop topics will cover various categories including, Hands on Horticulture, Grow Your Group, and Policy. For registration information, go to www.communitygarden.org/conferences.php.
- **October 2-5, 2004.** The American Dietetic Association presents their annual Food and Nutrition Conference & Expo in Anaheim, California. The conference agenda includes a variety of topics designed to assist dietitians in their work. For additional information, go to www.eatright.org.
- **October 2-5, 2004.** Share Our Strength will host the 2004 Conference of Leaders at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers in New York City. From Saturday afternoon to midday Tuesday, the agenda will include noted experts and timely panel discussions. For additional information, contact the Share Our Strength registration staff at or 866/618-8676.
- **October 19-23, 2004.** The National Association of Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs will hold their annual conference in Hershey, PA. The conference agenda includes workshops on nutrition, grant writing, and a market and a farm tour. For further information, contact 703/837-0451 or visit the web site at www.nafmnp.org.

STATES CAN'T PROHIBIT PURCHASE OF "JUNK FOOD" WITH FOOD STAMPS

In an effort to address the growing problem of obesity, Minnesota's Department of Human Services recently requested approval from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service to limit the types of foods participants in the federally-funded Food Stamp Program can purchase.

Minnesota requested a waiver from federal program requirements to allow them to prohibit the use of food stamps to purchase junk food, such as candy and soft drinks. The request was denied by USDA. While no other state has requested a similar waiver to date, USDA reports that other states may also have been considering a similar approach.

In the denial letter, USDA Regional Administrator Ollice Holden wrote, "We applaud the State for recognizing the importance of healthy eating by food stamp recipients. However, we believe that supporting healthier food choices through nutrition education and promotion is preferable to the proposed mandate. We are committed to working with the State to develop new approaches to improving the nutrition levels of food stamp recipients."

America's Second Harvest, a national association for local food banks, lauds USDA's decision because it would create a stigma and unnecessarily limit recipients' food choices. A spokesperson for the organization notes that USDA has collected data and released reports demonstrating that over 90 percent of food stamp recipients use their benefits at grocery stores – not to buy junk food at convenience stores. These studies also reveal that food stamps are used to purchase fruits and vegetables.

"In the end, the noble goal of trying to reduce obesity should apply to all people, not just the

poor. Nobody will stop a middle-income person from buying whatever they want," notes the spokesperson.

Information contained in this article was reported in HC Pro's Nutrition Week. A copy of the waiver denial letter is available at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/rules/Memo/04/050404.htm

RESOURCES

Have you ever conducted an Internet search looking for nutrition information, and been confounded by the results? If so, a new tool from Tufts University will come in handy. The Nutrition Navigator is the first online rating and review guide for nutrition websites. The Navigator solves the two major problems Web users have when seeking nutrition information: (1) how to quickly find information best suited to their needs and (2) whether to trust the information they find there.

The Tufts University Nutrition Navigator is designed to help sort through the large volume of nutrition information on the Internet and find accurate, useful nutrition information you can trust.

Websites are reviewed by Tufts nutritionists, who apply rating and evaluation criteria developed by the Tufts University Nutrition Navigator Advisory Board, a prestigious panel of leading U.S. and Canadian nutrition experts. Site reviews are updated quarterly to ensure that ratings take into account the ever-changing Internet and nutrition environments.

To be considered for review, a website must either have nutrition as its primary focus or make a significant effort to provide nutrition information. The Tufts University Nutrition Navigator was developed by the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University.

To view the Tufts University Nutrition Navigator, visit <http://navigator.tufts.edu/>.

PILOT PROMOTING FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION IN SCHOOLS IS EXTENDED

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary, Ann M. Veneman, announced the continuation and expansion of a fresh fruit and vegetable program designed to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables by children.

“Promoting healthy eating is an important component of President Bush’s HealthierUS initiative,” said Veneman. “This program provides another opportunity to teach lifelong healthy eating habits by making fresh fruits and vegetables available to children.”

The 2002 Farm Bill provided \$6 million for the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program for the 2002-2003 school year. Twenty-five elementary and secondary schools in each of four states, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Ohio and seven schools in the Zuni Pueblo of New Mexico were selected to participate in the original pilot. Pilot sites were chosen to represent a mix of large and small, rural, suburban and urban schools. The pilot evaluation showed that the program was popular with students and administrators, improved student eating habits, raised student preference for and awareness of a variety of fruits and vegetables, and that schools were interested in continuing if funding was available.

The recently enacted Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act made the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program permanent. Effective 10/01/04, \$9 million will be made available for the schools that were part of the original pilot.

The Act also provides for the expansion of the program to three states. The states selected for the expansion are Washington, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and two Indian reservations, in-

cluding one or more tribes belonging to the Intertribal Council of Arizona and the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The USDA as well as the National 5-A-Day Partnership will provide educational materials to participating schools. Each of the participating states will be given funding for the program that will begin operation during the 2004-2005 school year.

“USDA is a partner in the National 5-A-Day program that promotes the consumption of at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day,” said Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Eric M. Bost, who made the announcement at a healthy eating event at Pike Place Market in Seattle, WA. “This program is a great way to help children meet those daily requirements.”

In 2002, President Bush launched the HealthierUS initiative by directing all Federal Departments to work together to develop plans to help Americans live longer, better and healthier lives. Components of the initiative include participating in daily physical activity, eating a healthy diet, getting preventive screenings and making healthy choices.

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service administers the Food Stamp Program, Child Nutrition Programs (including the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs), and WIC. These programs serve low-income, nutritionally at-risk individuals and families.

For more information on the USDA Food and Nutrition Service and its programs, please visit www.fns.usda.gov/fns.

Correction: The July 2004 edition of the Food Journal incorrectly attributed an article to CNI's Nutrition Week. Nutrition Week is published by HC Pro.

We apologize for the error.

12TH ANNIVERSARY VICTORY AGAINST HUNGER AWARDS ANNOUNCED

For the 12th consecutive year, Victory Wholesale Grocers of Springboro, OH and Boca Raton, FL and the Washington D.C.-based Congressional Hunger Center (CHC) have teamed up to recognize state-wide and local anti-hunger organizations that have worked effectively to fight hunger in their communities. Every member of Congress was given the opportunity to nominate organizations in their own community to receive one of the \$1,000 prizes that are underwritten by Victory Wholesale Grocers. The Congressional Hunger Center received 50 nominations and made 26 awards.

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) and Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA), CHC board co-chairs, have stated, "The Victory Against Hunger Award winners are living examples of men and women who are citizens and not just spectators. Every one involved with these local anti-hunger organizations is dedicated to getting food into the hands of those who might otherwise go without. We are proud to add our names to the list of people giving them well-deserved praise for all they are doing to end hunger in their communities and across our country."

Awards were given to anti-hunger, faith based groups, food banks, civil rights and nutrition policy organizations, as well as other community-based groups that demonstrated success and creativity in "fighting hunger through improving access to the Food Stamp Program." Successful nominations in Texas included the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) in Dallas, which was nominated by Rep. Martin Frost. NTFB has made significant hunger relief efforts through the Simplified Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), a Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) Program that helps eligible individuals sign up for food stamps with a minimum amount of paperwork. To be eligible, an individ-

ual must be over 65 years of age and receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI). In 2003, the North Texas Food Bank accepted DHS's request to assist with outreach in the Dallas area. The effort involved contacting approximately 9,000 eligible individuals who had previously not responded to two DHS mailings that provided information on how to apply for these benefits. The economic output of the outreach effort was significant and the group of individuals who were successfully encouraged to apply for their benefits qualified for approximately \$26,000 per month in food stamps.

Also receiving an award, the San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) was nominated by Rep. Charles Gonzalez. The SAFB works diligently to provide programs that not only solve the immediate problem of hunger, but help individuals and families gain long-term security. In March 2002, SAFB received the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA) grant for Food Stamp outreach. SAFB began the project with the goals of heightening awareness of the Food Stamp Program and benefits available; empowering individuals certified for food stamps; and increasing the number of applicants each year. Their goals and objectives had been realized by partnering with 56 Senior Centers and 25 agencies, and by developing programs on nutrition education, senior outreach, and supplemental groceries for seniors, as well as food fairs which provide for the delivery of surplus food items to collaborative sites providing information outreach on FSP and other government funding.

The third award recipient in Texas was Families Under Urban and Social Attack, Inc. (FUUSA) of Houston and was nominated by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. During 2003, over 700,000 people living in Harris County (Houston) were estimated to be eligible but not participating in the FSP. FUUSA began addressing this problem by: meeting people "where they are"; being respectful and

listening to community needs; offering services and information at non-traditional times; providing information in the primary language of those being served; and making follow-up visits. FUUSA did a tremendous job of reaching a population with limited resources and was recognized for its efforts by TACAA.

FEDERAL REGISTER

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 06/15/04, p. 42413.** USDA announces the annual adjustments to: the national average payment rates for meals and supplements served in child care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, at-risk afterschool care centers, and adult day care centers; the food service payment rates for meals and supplements served in day care homes; and the administrative reimbursement rates for sponsoring organizations of day care homes, to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. The adjustments contained in this notice are made on an annual basis each July, as required by the statutes and regulations governing the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The effective date was 07/01/04. For further information, call Keith Churchill at 703/305-2620.
- **USDA, 06/15/04, p. 42415.** USDA announces the annual adjustments to: (1) The “national average payments,” the amount of money the federal government provides states for lunches, afterschool snacks and breakfasts served to children participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Programs; (2) the “maximum reimbursement rates,” the maximum per lunch rate from federal funds that a state can provide a school food authority for lunches served to children participating in the NSLP; and (3) the rate of reimbursement for a half-pint of milk served to non-needy children in a school or institution which participates in the Special Milk Program for Children. The payments and rates are prescribed on an annual basis each July. The annual payments and rates adjustments for the NSLP and School Breakfast Programs reflect changes in the Food Away From Home series of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. The annual rate adjustment for the Special Milk Program reflects changes in the Producer Price Index for Fluid Milk Products. These payments and rates are in effect from 07/01/04 - 06/30/05. For further information, call Rosemary O’Connell at 703/305-2590.
- **U.S. Department Of Health and Human Services (HHS), 06/16/04, p. 42586.** On 03/09/04, HHS published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to implement executive branch policy that, within the framework of constitutional church-state guidelines, religiously affiliated (or “faith-based”) organizations should be able to compete on an equal footing with other organizations for the HHS funding without impairing the religious character of such organizations. It creates a new regulation on equal treatment for faith-based organizations, and revises HHS regulations to remove barriers to the participation of faith-based organizations in HHS programs. The changes will ensure that these programs are implemented in a manner consistent with applicable statutes and the requirements of the Constitution, including the Establishment, Free Exercise, and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment. The Secretary requested comments on the NPRM and gave 60 days for individuals to submit their written comments to the HHS. This rule was effective 08/16/04. For further information, call Bobby Polito at 202/358-3595.



FOOD JOURNAL

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NO. 1767

Please report address changes to foodjournal@taca.org or fax to (512) 462-2004.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES, INC.

2512 IH 35 South, Suite 100

Austin, Texas 78704-5751

Telephone: 512/462-2555

Fax: 512/462-2004

E-Mail: foodjournal@taca.org

TACAA STAFF

Stella Rodriguez	Executive Director
Laurie S. Haney	Executive Assistant
Colyn Frazier	Office Manager
Pam Lawrie	Program Manager
Janet Leubner	Program Coordinator
Anitra Hendricks	Program Assistant
Gilbert Blanco	Field Representative

TACAA OFFICERS

Joe A. Martinez	President
Karen Swenson	First Vice President
vacant	Second Vice President
Beverly Logan	Treasurer
Leona Johnson	Secretary
Carol Brown	Parliamentarian

The TACAA Food Journal is published monthly by the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, Inc. (TACAA). Funding for the newsletter is provided under a contract with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) under the Community Food and Nutrition Program. Opinions expressed are those of TACAA staff and do not necessarily represent views of TDHCA, TACAA, or its members. TACAA provides the Food Journal at no cost to readers throughout the state, and encourages readers to submit articles and comments for review and publication.

Volume XVIII, Number 8 - August 20, 2004

SHARE OUR SURPLUS

Fighting Hunger in Texas

It was estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1997 that almost 100 billion pounds of safe, edible food – meat and poultry, fruit and vegetables, milk and eggs – are thrown away every year by retailers, restaurants, and farmers while twenty-five million Americans are hungry, including 12 million children. Recent figures show that over one million children in Texas are hungry or at risk of hunger. This represents 32% of all Texas children. Texas has the second-highest percentage of food insecure families in the country.

Hundreds of organizations across the state of Texas, including food banks, soup kitchens, half-way houses, children's homes, rehabilitation centers, shelters, and social service agencies are involved in the fight against hunger and depend on food commodities and donations to feed the hungry individuals and families they serve. The **Share Our Surplus (SOS)** program provides a way to reduce food waste and alleviate hunger in Texas communities. Administered by the Texas Association of Community Action Agencies (TACAA), SOS is a food salvage program that works through a network of producers, growers, shippers, individual donors, and food assistance programs.

Details are not yet available, but TACAA is pleased to announce that the SOS program has exceeded all previous records with over 3 million pounds of produce donated during this program year (2004 PY), with several months left to go. The details about the prior program year follow.

During the 2003 PY, over 1.8 million pounds of donated food was placed through the program. Fifty-four different types of products were donated. Bread, cabbage, grapefruit, lettuce, onions, papayas, varieties of peppers, tomatoes, frozen venison, and watermelon were the most frequent donations. Asparagus, bananas, carrots, jicama, oranges, and varieties of squash were donated slightly less often. Frozen meats were also donated.

Fifty different companies and individuals combined donated during the 2003 PY.

- 23 companies in the Rio Grande Valley.
- 9 companies and 1 individual in the San Antonio area.

- 16 individuals and 1 company from other areas of the state.

Fifty-one agencies received SOS donations during the 2003 PY. Donation recipients ranged from small pantries to large food banks.

- 20 agencies in the Rio Grande Valley.
- 14 agencies in the San Antonio area.
- 17 agencies from other areas of the state.

Agencies were grateful for the free food donations that helped supplement and stretch their existing resources.

Border Missions in Hidalgo, Texas operates a food pantry, provides meals, and distributes commodities to anyone who needs food. Director Lawney Parmer recently thanked Share Our Surplus for all the help his organization receives. "We appreciate all of the donated food that we get. It gets pretty scarce at times and SOS is what keeps us going," Parmer said.

Teresa Gonzalez with AVANCE wrote, "AVANCE-RGV provides donated produce to families who live in extreme poverty in the four valley counties. We select families that receive limited government assistance and those most in need, including families with limited transportation living in rural areas and colonias. The donated products help families have a healthier variety of foods. The families in most cases use their limited food funds for staple foods like milk, rice, beans, flour, shortening, eggs, potatoes and bread. Unfortunately the purchasing of healthy produce is a luxury."

The SOS program is a win-win situation for all involved. Recipient agencies are able to benefit from food that would otherwise go to waste. For the donor, SOS offers a way to: eliminate fees associated with dumping; clear storage sheds; reduce the donor's tax obligation; and make a difference in the community.

To learn more about the SOS program, visit our web site at [www.tacaa.org/Share Our Surplus](http://www.tacaa.org/Share%20Our%20Surplus) and view our newsletter, *SOS Shoptalk*, or the most recent *Share Our Surplus Program Year Report*. If you are a produce company that would like to donate your surplus goods or are an agency interested in receiving food donations, please call TACAA's Hunger Relief Hotline 1-800-992-9767, ext. 502.

WORLD FOOD DAY

October 16, 2004

World Food Day is a worldwide event commemorating the founding of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. It is observed each October 16th, aiming to increase awareness, understanding, and year-around action to alleviate hunger. Approximately 450 organizations in the United States sponsor this endeavor and more than 150 countries world-wide observe the event. With its first observance in 1981, 2004 will mark World Food Day's 24th commemoration.

This year's World Food Day theme is "Biodiversity for Food Security". The theme recognizes the importance of biological diversity in ensuring that people have sustainable access to enough high-quality food to lead active and healthy lives. Biological diversity is fundamental to agriculture and food production. People rely on the variety of food, shelter, and goods for their livelihood. Yet, humans put increasing pressure on species and their environments. As a result, many plants and animals are at risk, as well as essential natural processes such as pollination by insects and the regeneration of soils by micro-organisms. To feed a growing population, agriculture must provide more food. It will also be essential to increase its resilience by protecting a wide array of life forms with unique traits and conserving genetic diversity within each species.

In conjunction with observance of World Food Day, the 21st annual World Food Day Teleconference will take place. This year's theme is ***Politics of Hunger: What's at Stake?***. This year's program will examine the decision-making process involved in developing food policies. Dr. Werner Kiene, World Food Program representative to the Bretton Woods Institutions, will be the special guest. The program will be broadcast live from Washington DC, Friday, October 15th, from noon to 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time. There are no restrictions on videotaping or re-broadcast.

Related Events

Teleconference

In Texas, several sponsors will host the teleconference for viewing. The information will become available as host sites are confirmed and nearer the date

of World Food Day. Please refer to the end of the article to obtain more information.

National Food Bank Week

National Food Bank Week is October 10 through October 16, 2004. During National Food Bank Week, food banks across the U.S. will focus on raising awareness of hunger issues. Contact your local food bank to inquire about planned events or activities. To locate the Texas food bank nearest you, refer to www.tashfb.org.

CROP WALKS

Sponsored by Church World Service, CROP WALKS are community-based fund-raising events that raise money for local hunger-fighting organizations, as well as the international relief and development efforts of Church World Service. Each year, some 2,000 communities across the U.S. sponsor CROP WALKS. Many organizations plan CROP WALKS around the height of special events, such as World Food Day, and holidays. For further information, or to obtain a list of scheduled CROP WALKS for Texas, call 1-888-297-2767.

World Food Day Curriculum

Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger is an international hunger curriculum targeting youth all over the world. Using World Food Day as a platform to introduce common teaching materials on hunger and malnutrition, *Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger* aims to help youth become aware of hunger issues and how to solve them. Educators all over the world are encouraged to instill in young people a sense of caring and commitment to join in the fight against hunger. Education materials are available for primary, intermediate, and secondary levels. For more information about this curriculum, or to retrieve curriculum materials, visit the internet at www.feedingminds.org.

For More Information

For more information about World Food Day, the Teleconference, and other local or state activities that may be occurring, please contact Patricia Young, National World Food Day Coordinator at (202) 653-2404, or visit the internet at www.worldfooddayusa.org or www.fao.org/wfd/ for more information. You may also email World-Food-Day@fao.org.