

H. ACCEPTANCE OF NEW COMMODITIES:

Occasionally limited quantities of new commodities are made available to the SDA for testing the acceptability of the product. If the product is acceptable, USDA may make a limited purchase. Generally SFAs from nearby locations are selected to participate in taste-tests or "can-cutting" sessions.

When enough product is purchased initially that a region within the State may participate in this test, the new commodity is made available to all SFAs within that region.

If an SFA is selected to test a new commodity, remember that it is important to notice the children's acceptance of this product. The child's acceptance or rejection of new commodities may affect whether or not this item is selected for school nutrition programs statewide and possibly on a regional or national basis. SFAs should make a special effort to properly prepare the food item by using either a recipe supplied with the product or one of the SFAs own recipes.

Encourage the NAC, teachers, or other select student groups to participate in a taste-test procedure for the commodity and encourage their comments as to the acceptance of the product, they may be able to encourage students participation in the "test" of the commodity when served on the menu.

Monitor plate waste and listen for positive or negative comments relating to the product. If no comments are heard, ask some students who are eating or have already eaten how they like the commodity.

Remember that the SFAs' input is important, and that it should be provided on a survey or Commodity Acceptance Form (Exhibit F-1) to the SDA, which will in turn, provide comments to the SERO. The SFA should indicate whether or not it would accept this commodity in the future if it were again available through USDA.