

Food & Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition
Division of Information Resources Management
Information Support Branch

FACTORED FOOD VOCABULARY

BACKGROUND

- 1972 FDA-USDA collaborated to develop Nutrient Data Bank (revised Handbook #8). FDA supported contract with Rehab for a classification of food product names.
- 1973 EDRO (FDA's regional organization, now the Office of Regional Operations) started to revise its EDRO Product List. The revision effort was criticized by the Bureau of Foods (BF) (now Center for Food Safety... (CFSAN)). BF stated its requirements for food product classification.
- 1974 Legislation was proposed to register manufacturers of food products. The legislation would require classification and coding of food products.
- Charles Exley (then Head, Computer Services Section) specified the need for a factored vocabulary. The prototype developed was later used for Low-Acid Canned Foods (LACF) information system.
- 1975 L. P. True (Director, Technical Operations Staff (predecessor to Division of Information Resources Management)), initiated Food Code project and assigned it to Information Services Section (ISS). Consultants were appointed. Meetings were arranged with every office in the Bureau; requirements and objectives were discussed.
- 1976 The Food Code (Vocabulary) was compared with the EDRO List. Although the two were different in style and format, it was believed that EDRO data could be converted for BF use by "factoring" it with the Food Vocabulary.
- Food Vocabulary was entered into BF Thesaurus in December 1976.
- 1977-78 Food Vocabulary work was suspended due to requirements of Food Additive Safety Review.

- 1979 Intensive work was undertaken on scope notes. The FFV Committee (consultants and staff) initiated work on the manual.
- 1980 First fully edited hierarchic structure was delivered to Bradley Rosenthal.
- 1981 Technical Information Specialist was assigned to FFV work in March.
- Total Diet Study (NTD) food product names were added to dictionary in March. Factors were assigned for these and factor codes were added to the dictionary, May-September.
- FFV consultants received Commissioner's Special Award, May, 1981.
- First list of scope notes was delivered to Rosenthal in June.
- ISS issued reports on 1) usefulness of FFV for factoring Total Diet Study food product names and 2) possibility of converting LACF factor terms to FFV factor terms by batch conversion, September 1981.
- 1982 ISS started in June to map LACF factor terms for batch conversion. LACF conversion was continued on a low-priority basis over several years.
- 1983 Preliminary mapping of LACF-FFV factor terms was completed in June. A number of discrepancies remained to be resolved.
- Application of the FFV to a 5% sample of the National Food Consumption Survey (NFC) began in August.
- 1984 Factoring of NFC sample was completed in February.
- The FFV was presented in a poster session at the Ninth Nutrient Data Bank Conference in Amherst, Mass in June, engendering considerable outside interest in the FFV.
- Resolving LACF discrepancies continued.
- Application of the FFV to a 5% sample of the USDA Food Composition Tables (Handbook 8) began in September.

Slides on the FFV were presented by Dr. Ritva Butrum, National Cancer Institute, at a EUROFOODS meeting in Luxembourg.

1985 Dr. Jean Pennington (DON) presented the FFV at INFOODS meeting at Cambridge, Mass, in February and later in Heidelberg, Germany, in May.

FFV posters were presented at the Tenth National Nutrient Data Bank Conference in San Francisco and at the Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting in Atlanta, both in June.

FASTFOODS file, a small searchable file integrating factored food names from a number of sources (NTD, NFC, USDA Food Composition File, USDA Nutrient Composition Lab selenium study, and FFV precombined terms), was developed.

1986 A partially complete version of FFV User's Manual was made available in draft form.

LACF factor mapping was completed.

Cooperative effort was undertaken by CFSAN and National Cancer Institute to use the FFV in indexing the full USDA Food Composition Standardized Tables. Information Support Branch offered a 1-day tutorial to all NCI personnel participating in the project and 2-week training to the food specialists performing the factoring. *Pauline Unold*

May 13
July 9-23

FFV was introduced for testing in SIREN, being applied to the food names in the Precedent File and Compliance Policy Guideline Manual.