

USDA CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM

Grains Component



This handout provides information on grain requirements for infants, child and adult participants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Throughout the handout, the term *program* will be used which refers to all facility types: group child care centers, family day care homes, afterschool programs, emergency shelters and adult care centers. Find this handout and more information on the New CACFP Meal Pattern webpage: <https://dpi.wi.gov/community-nutrition/cacfp/new-cacfp-meal-pattern>.

What is Whole Grain-Rich (WGR)?

At least 1 serving of grains per day must be whole grain-rich. Whole grain-rich (WGR) foods contain **100% whole grains**, or at least **50% whole grains**, and the remaining grains are enriched.

The whole grain-rich requirement only applies to meals served to children 1 year and older, and adult participants; it **does not** apply to infant meals.



Identifying Whole Grains *(This is not an all-inclusive list)*

Whole Grains	Not Whole Grains
Amaranth	All-purpose flour
Brown rice, wild rice	Bread flour
Buckwheat	Bromated flour
Bulgar (cracked wheat)	Cake flour
Bromated whole wheat flour	Corn grits
Crushed wheat	Couscous
Graham flour	De-germinated cornmeal
Millet	Durum flour
Oatmeal or rolled oats	Enriched flour
Quinoa	Enriched rice
Triticale	Enriched wheat flour
Whole grain barley	Farina
Whole rye	Long-grain white rice
Whole grain corn	Pearled barley
Whole cornmeal	Phosphate flour
Whole grain sorghum	Unbleached flour
Whole grain triticale	White flour
Whole durum wheat	Whole flour
Whole-wheat	Wheat flour



Grains like quinoa, brown rice, oatmeal, etc. may not have the word *whole* before their name, but are 100% whole grains.

Foods labeled with the words *made with whole wheat, bran, multi-grain, stone-ground, 100% wheat, or seven-grain*, are usually not whole grain.

Serving Meals with WGR Foods

Each day, at least one meal or snack must include a whole grain-rich food. If your program serves:

- One meal (breakfast, lunch or supper), the grain must be WGR.
- One snack, if one of the two components is a grain item, it must be WGR.
- More than one meal or snack (breakfast, lunch and snack), you may choose which meal to serve the WGR food.

Whole Grain-Rich Criteria

Identify whole grain-rich foods by **ONE** of the **4** options below:

1. Grain products specifically labeled as “whole wheat bread”, “entire wheat bread”, “whole wheat rolls”, “entire wheat rolls”, “whole wheat buns”, and “entire wheat buns” are **100% whole wheat**

2. The package includes one of the following **FDA health claims**:

- Diets rich in whole grain foods and other plant foods and low in total fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol may reduce the risk of heart disease and some cancers. **OR**
- Diets rich in whole grain foods and other plant foods, and low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may help reduce the risk of heart disease.

3. Use the **Ingredients List** on the product label:

- A **whole grain** is the first ingredient or is the second ingredient, with water as the first ingredient

Ingredients: Whole-wheat flour, water, enriched unbleached wheat flour, yeast

4. Store-bought combination foods (i.e. pizza, corn dogs, etc.): Obtain a CN label or PFS to credit the breadings as WGR. If the CN label or PFS says:

- “oz. equivalent grains” = **WGR**
- “bread” or “bread alternate” = **not WGR**

Homemade Grain Items:

Look at the grains in the recipe. If 50% or more of the grains are whole grain, the item is WGR.

Recordkeeping Requirements



Whole grain (WG), whole wheat (WW) or whole grain-rich (WGR) must be written on menus next to the grain item. If you do not serve a WGR item on a given day, **the least reimbursable meal or snack serving a grain must not be claimed.**

For More Information on Grains:

Refer to this [website](#) and USDA Policy Memo [01-2018](#)

Grain-Based Desserts

Grain-based desserts (GBD) are **not creditable to the grain component**. This includes store-bought and homemade items.

One intention of the CACFP is to **teach healthy eating**. Meal times should be used as teachable moments, helping to shape the food choices children will make later in life. By serving GBD, children learn to view these foods as a healthy snack.

- Even items homemade with healthy ingredients (i.e. less sugar and/or fat) are NOT creditable because they are still identified as a GBD; and, while a homemade version may be healthier; often what is purchased in stores is not.

Some GBDs may be labeled with a different name (i.e. breakfast flat instead of granola bar); however, they are still a GBD and must not be served as a creditable component.



Grain-Based Desserts	NOT Grain-Based Desserts
Brownies	Croissants
Sweet biscotti and scones made with fruits, icing, etc.	Savory biscotti/scones made with cheese, herbs, vegetables
Cake, including coffee cake	French toast
Cereal bars, breakfast bars, granola bars	Granola cereal
Cookies, including vanilla wafers	Crackers (savory & plain); Sweet crackers (animal crackers & graham crackers)
Doughnuts	Pancakes, Waffles
Gingerbread	Muffins
Pie crusts of dessert pies, cobblers, and fruit turnovers	Pie crusts of savory pies (i.e. vegetable pot-pie or quiche)
Sweet bread pudding & rice pudding	Savory bread pudding made with cheese, herbs, vegetables
Toaster pastries	Quick breads (banana, zucchini, and others)
Sweet rolls (cinnamon rolls)	Teething biscuits and toasts

[Here](#) are some healthy snacks to serve in place of desserts



Recordkeeping Requirements

If a grain-based dessert is served as the grain component at a meal or snack, **that meal/snack must not be claimed**.

Breakfast Cereal Sugar Limit

Breakfast cereals (ready-to-eat, and instant or regular hot cereal) must contain no more than **6 grams** of sugar per dry ounce.

There are three ways to determine if a cereal meets this sugar limit:

More information about these are found on the [Cereals that Meet CACFP Requirements](#) handout. An example of how to use the Sugar Limits in Cereal Table is provided below.

Sugar Limits in Cereal Table

- 1 Use the Nutrition Facts label to find the **Serving Size**, in grams (g), of the cereal.
- 2 Find the **Sugars** line. Look at the number of grams (g) next to Sugars.
- 3 Use the serving size identified in step 1 to find the serving size of your cereal in the table below.

Serving Size™	Sugars
If the serving size is:	Sugars cannot be more than:
12-16 grams	3 grams
26-30 grams	6 grams
31-35 grams	7 grams
45-49 grams	10 grams

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size ¼ cup (30g)	
Servings Per Container about 15	
Amount Per Serving	Cereal
Calories 100	100
Calories from Fat 5	5
% Daily Value*	
Sodium 140mg	6%
Potassium 90mg	3%
Total Carbohydrate 22g	7%
Dietary Fiber 3g	11%
Sugars 5g	
Other Carbohydrate 14g	
Protein 140mg	



Recordkeeping Requirements

The specific name of the cereal(s) served must be written on menus. **If a cereal is served that is above the sugar limit, that meal or snack must not be claimed.**

- 4 In the table, look at the number to the right of the serving size amount, under the "Sugars" column. **If your cereal has that amount of sugar, or less, your cereal meets the sugar requirement.**

Answer: The cereal has 5 grams of sugar per 30 grams. The maximum amount of sugar allowed for 30 grams of cereal is 6 grams. 5 is less than 6, so this cereal meets the sugar limit.

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