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Furniture



"A stumbling block to the pessimist is a stepping-stone to the optimist." — Eleanor Roosevelt



## Nutrition Facts labels get an update

**Source:** Courtney Luecking, assistant extension professor

You may have noticed some changes recently to the Nutrition Facts labels on common grocery items. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has changed the labels on packaged foods and drinks, marking the first major changes to the labels in 20 years.

Changes to the serving size, calories, percent daily values and nutrients on the label are the result of updated scientific information, new research and public input. The goals of the new labels are to make it easier for you to make informed decisions about food and live a healthier life.

The FDA made changes to the serving size to reflect how much people usually eat and drink. However, you should note that a serving size is not a daily nutrition recommendation.

Calorie changes include making the calorie font bolder and bigger, so you can clearly see how many calories are in a serving size. The number of calories you should eat every day varies by person. You can determine what your daily calories needs are by visiting the MyPlate website at https://www.myplate.gov/myplate-plan.

The percent daily value shows you the amount of a particular nutrient available in each serving of food or drink. Nutrients shown on the food label include fat, carbohydrates, protein, cholesterol and select vitamins and minerals. The FDA updated these daily nutrient values, which could make those values higher or lower than before. As a general rule, if the label shows 5% or less daily value of a nutrient, then it is considered low in that particular nutrient. If the daily value is 20% or above, then the food contains a high level of that nutrient.

In addition to changes to the daily values, the

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FDA removed and added nutrients to food labels. Added sugars are now required to be on the label. This change was made because added sugars make it harder for you to get the nutrients you need and stay within your daily calorie limit. Nutrients that were added include potassium and vitamin D. American diets often lack in these two nutrients. Potassium can lower your risk of developing high blood pressure, and vitamin D can reduce your risk of developing osteoporosis. Vitamins A and C are nutrients that the FDA removed, because most of us get the daily recommended amounts of these vitamins in our diets. They also removed calories from fat as research has determined the type of fat you consume is more important than the amount.

Original Label Nutrition Facts Serving Size 2/3 cup (55g) Servings Per Container 8				New Label Nutrition Facts 8 servings per container Serving size 2/3 cup (55g		
Calories 230	Ca	ories fron		Amount per serving Calories	230	
Total Fat 8g		% Dail	y Value* 12%	calories 4	200	
Saturated Fat	110		5%	% Dai	ly Value	
Trans Fat Og				Total Fat 8g	109	
Cholesterol Omg			0%	Saturated Fat 1g	59	
Sodium 160mg			7%	Trans Fat Og		
Total Carbohydrate 37g 12%			12%	Cholesterol Omg	09	
Dietary Fiber 4g			16%	Sodium 160mg	79	
Sugars 12g				Total Carbohydrate 37g	139	
Protein 3g				Dietary Fiber 4g	149	
Vitamin A			10%	Total Sugars 12g		
Vitamin A			8%	Includes 10g Added Sugars	205	
Calcium			20%	Protein 3g		
Iron			45%		101	
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2.000 calorie diet.				Vitamin D 2mog	104	
Your Daily Value may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.				Calcium 260mg	201	
Total Fat	Calories: Less than	2,000 65g	2,500	Iron 8mg	455	
Sat Fat Cholesterol Sodium Total Carbohydrate Diotary Fiber	Loss than Loss than Loss than	20g 300mg 2,460mg 300g 25g	250 300mg 2.400mg 375g 30g	Potassium 240mg 61 The % Daily Value (DV) tails you how much a nutrient in a serving of food combutes to a daily diet. 2000 calorie a day is used for gameral nutrition advice.		

Graphic: U.S. Food and Drug Administration

For more information about nutrient label changes, how to read nutrition labels and general nutrition questions, contact the Estill County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service at 606-723-4557.

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