AgNews

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Delaware DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
Serving Agriculture and Protecting Consumers

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Food Checkout Week

Regardless of how you feel about the election results, this is a week to rejoice – the 2008 Food Checkout Week. What is a Food Checkout Week? It is the week in a given year that the average American has earned enough money to pay for their groceries for an entire year. We Americans are very fortunate because we have the most abundant, safest, and most affordable food supply in the world.

According to the Agriculture Department's (USDA) Economic Research Service, American families and individuals currently spend, on average, just ten percent of their disposable personal income for food eaten at home and at restaurants, or about $2,400 per person.

According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, "The Agriculture Department's latest statistic includes food and non-alcoholic beverages consumed at home and away from home. This includes food purchases from grocery stores and other retail outlets, including food purchases with food stamps and vouchers for the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) program. The statistic also includes away-from-home meals and snacks purchased by families and individuals, as well as food furnished to employees.

In comparison to working 37 days to pay for food, Americans worked 77 days to pay their federal taxes, 62 days to pay for housing/household operation, and 52 days for health/medical care, according to The Tax Foundation."

Michael Scuse, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture said, "When you sit down to dinner this week and every week, take a moment to raise a glass of milk or juice and give a toast of appreciation to our farmers because their expertise, dedication, and commitment to the land make it possible for us all to have this safe, abundant, and affordable food supply."

The Delaware Farm Bureau (DFB) is having a Food Checkout Week celebration on Saturday, February 9. Farm Bureau representatives will be at Kent General Hospital at 1:00 PM to distribute food that they have purchased to the Ronald MacDonald room.

For more information on the Farm Bureau's celebration, contact: Tonya Hammel, DFB Public Relations Coordinator:

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