



The USDA National Nutrient Databank

Joanne M. Holden, Nutrient Data Laboratory, BHNRC, ARS, USDA,
Riverdale, MD 20737

The USDA National Nutrient Databank provides the basis of virtually all U.S. and many other national and international food composition databases. Data are provided for almost 6,000 foods and over 80 components. Data are obtained from analyses of foods as well as by calculation and imputation from values for related foods. Data documentation are provided in English and include scientific names for plant and animal products. INFOODS tagnames for food components are included as well. The Nutrient Data Laboratory (NDL) is redesigning the hardware and software used to manage the data to provide a state of the art database environment. USDA has also developed a new plan for generating new analytical data for 1000 core foods and ingredients. These data are also used to develop representative estimates for other foods, including multi-component foods. The NDL is committed to providing current and representative data for foods, including many new components of interest to the public health community. To accomplish this goal NDL staff will implement data evaluation criteria to assure data quality, will validate data calculation procedures, and will support research on the identification of data needs. As part of the NORAM FOODS Regional center NDL will increase communication with Regional partners and will support training and research needs.