

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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SAN BENITO COUNTY, CA



Population: 56,072

2 Incorporated Cities: Hollister & San Juan Bautista

Demographics: 65.7% Hispanic or Latino

English as second language: 36.0%

% below poverty level: 11.7%

FOOD WASTE PILOT STUDY

Study Group Participants:

- Senior Center clients
- Community Food Bank clients
- International Moms Club of Hollister

Demographics of Pilot Study Group:

Low Income with children

Senior Citizens

Parents with young children

Measurement Tool Used for Pilot Study: Food & Photo Diary **Worksheet**

Strategies Presented: 1) KEEP FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FRESH
(used Fruit and Vegetable Storage Guide)

2) MAKE A LIST WITH MEALS IN MIND
(used Make a Shopping List with Meals in Mind)

Sample Food & Photo Diary Worksheet

Name:				Email:			
ate Started:				Date Ended:			

Please record the food you threw away for 7 days in the chart below. Fill in the chart for as many meals as you can for 7 days

Photo Diary Worksheet-- Week One				
	food description	weight (in oz.)	thoughts on why this food item went to waste	Picture Y/
Example	moldy bread	8 ounces	Bought more bread because it was on sale	Yes
y 1 Breakfast				
y 1 Lunch				
y 1 Dinner				

Length of Pilot Study: **4 Weeks**

Week 1: Journal & Photos of all Food Wasted
w/NO Strategies Presented

Weeks 2 - 4: Journal & Photos of all Food Wasted
w/2 Strategies Presented

Disposable camera provided to 7
clients willing to take photos

Challenges:

- Recruiting study group participants
- Retaining study group participants
- Dynamics of group participants
(seniors, spanish speaking only, no email)
- Spanish Translation needed for Worksheet & Strategies
and to assist with presentations
- Frequent follow up needed
- Choosing type and amount of incentive

Status Update

Approximately 20 participants
(a few have never turned in any worksheets)

15 data worksheets collected to date.

Most participants are between weeks 1-3

Need additional time for groups to complete 4 weeks

Observations:

Participants said that they did not waste a lot of food (especially Seniors) before they started pilot study. Most wanted to share that they already had ideas to cut back on waste such as freezing, canning, or giving to family or neighbors.

A Participant commented that they don't feel as bad if they compost their food scraps versus throwing them into trash.

Some food bank clients throw out food that is given to them in the weekly brown bag program because they don't like it or it was too much (especially produce).

Confusion on “avoidable” and “unavoidable” food waste (maybe could have addressed that in the worksheet)