Shop Simple with MyPlate & More MyPlate Updates!

USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion Connect Extension Webinar October 21, 2021



Speakers - USDA Center for Nutrition Policy & Promotion



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Stephenie Fu



Erica Evans, RD





Agenda

- Introduction
 - Jo Mandelson
- MyPlate Overarching Themes & Consumer Insights
 - Stephenie Fu
- Demonstration of Shop Simple with MyPlate
 - Corey Holland
- MyPlate Resources MyPlate Quiz Levels
 - Erica Evans
- Q&A





CNPP Priority Areas



Health equity

Cost consciousness

Nutrient density





Insights from Consumers and Educators

In-depth interviews

 SNAP participants
 SNAP-eligible individuals
 SNAP educators



- Consumer app concepts
 - Healthy food shopping, prep/meal ideas, recipes, menus
 - Location-specific offerings, eg, SNAP retailers, incentive programs

Respondents experience common barriers to eating healthy, especially on a budget

² Expensive

"It's easy, but it's pricey. **The budget is tight**, **especially with the little one**. It's out there, but money-wise it's hard because it's pricey." (SNAP Participant, Younger, Kids)

"It's just the cost; you can't get around it. If you're gonna eat healthy, you're gonna pay." (SNAP Participant, Older, No Kids)

7 Spoils Faster

"It's tough. Things go bad if they're mostly fresh, especially vegetables. [But] I like to eat more of [that] than canned vegetables." (SNAP-eligible, Younger, Kids)

"You can't buy a lot of vegetables because they'll go bad. I love salads, but you can't buy lettuce in bulk." (SNAP-eligible, Older, No Kids)

Appealing to Entire Household

"My significant other is not the healthiest, so he would prefer fast food. It's a little difficult that I sometimes have to meal prep for two of us, so **it's just the preference of food that makes it difficult**." (SNAP-eligible, Younger, Kids)

When shopping for food, respondents walk a fine line between routine and rut

- They tend to shop for the same foods and prepare them in familiar styles but seek ways to add some variety.
- Most online explorations into food/healthy eating stem from the desire to find new ideas to cook/serve, but respondents also shared concerns about trying new recipes, especially with unfamiliar ingredients.

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"My goal is to make those things [I see online]. It may not be the week I see them; it may be the next week. But just **[aim] to make something different; you get tired of the same thing** over and over." (SNAP-eligible, Older, No Kids)

"I know what I like and what to prepare, but if I ever need any **suggestions**, I go on [this app] and refer back to it." (SNAP-eligible, Younger, Kids)

Barriers

"Sometimes you see these fancy meals—they're not really fancy, but **they're things that you wouldn't find in a typical grocery store**—so I look to make sure it's things I can find in a typical grocery store." (SNAP-eligible, Older, No Kids)

"Usually, we have a pretty set menu at the house because my toddler is **pretty picky**." (SNAPeligible, Younger, Kids)

Interviewees use similar methods to keep costs low and find healthy recipes—but none note a resource that help with <u>both</u>.

"I usually just stick to meal ideas and meal prepping type of apps." (SNAP-eligible, Younger, Kids)

Food shopping on a budget

- Digital Coupon Apps (i.e., coupon aggregators)
- Store Memberships (coupons in app, other exclusive deals/sales)
 - Online Deals from Stores
- Bargain hunting

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Finding healthy, varietal recipes

- Apps (incl. Plan to Eat, Mealime, Easy Recipes)
- Dedicated Recipe
 Websites (incl.
 EatingWell.com,
 CookingLight.com)
- **Other Websites** (incl. YouTube, Pinterest)

"Mealime [recipe app] lets you clip 2 coupons on it too...but the things I want—especially vegetables and fruits—there's hardly any coupons for it." (SNAP Participant, Younger, Kids)

No one, however, could identify a site or app focused on healthy eating on a budget

SNAP educator perspective: An app could help



Access to Information Empowers Better Choices

"Offering nutrition information in an app would be important. Once participants learn to read the labels, they're really excited about it. They like that information. **Anytime we can include that info, it empowers them to make better choices.**" (SNAP Educator)



An App Could Help Support Key Ideas from SNAP Curriculum

"That's why I value what we do: because we show them it's not expensive, but it takes time. You have to be organized and make a list and plan your meals, but once it's planned, it's easy. You have food for the whole week. And in the long run, you will feel better and stretch your food dollars." (SNAP Educator)



App Allows for Customization, Which Can Be Inclusive

Having it customizable is very important. If it's going to be used all over, different locations, cultures, they're going to want it customized to their preferences. Everyone will want something different." (SNAP Educator)

SNAP educator perspective: Simplicity is key to app use

SNAP educators offered some advice to keep in mind in order to best serve the audience with whom they work.

Simplicity The app needs to be simple to use and offer simple meals and recipes

"I think it would need to be simple type recipes—not too many ingredients, common items, easy to find, things they are familiar with, not any herbs or spices they aren't familiar with. If it does have certain things that they aren't familiar with, then have substitute options."

The app should meet users where they are—potentially early on their path to healthy eating or meal planning

"1-3 day menu or meal plan...More than that and they won't do it. So, I need to slow it down in my classes, so they are able to plan for one day."

Access For those without smartphones or with data limitations, a web-based option might improve reach.

"Because we work with low income, **not everyone has smartphone**. And if you have one, **the data plans might not be unlimited**. So, I guess that's the reason we haven't turned [our website] into an app. It is compatible with mobile. My guess is the reason we haven't gone that way is because we're not sure if that would be the most equitable way."

Branding

Attainability

USDA gets mixed feedback, especially when asking questions to allow for customization.

"It can say it somewhere small tiny print, but that will be a red flag for a lot of communities. **It's just no going to have the reach intended if it's in anyway shape or form a federal program**. Then people don't want to put their information in there."

Curriculum

The app needs to be in their curriculum for these educators to teach it/ share it.

"We talk about a lot of these things when trying to help them, so would point them in the direction. Just telling them it's a resource available. We have certain curriculum we follow, so unless it was in that, not sure we could spend time on it."

Current Incentive Programs

Double Up Food Bucks

Use your SNAP EBT card to buy fresh vegetables and fruit at a participating grocery store. For every \$1 you spend on fresh produce, earn \$1 FREE Double Up Food Bucks, up to \$25 per day. Spend your Double Up rewards on more fresh fruits or vegetables from the same store at a future time.

Farmer's Market dollar matching programs

Use your SNAP EBT card to buy fruits and vegetables at a participating farmer's market. Earn \$1 for every \$1 you spend, to be used to buy more fruits and vegetables in the future.

Grocery store coupons for fruit and vegetable purchases

Retailers may offer their own program or participate in others that provide coupons specifically for buying fruits and vegetables.

Healthy Milk Incentive Program

Shoppers use SNAP benefits at certain stores to purchase qualifying milk and receive a coupon for additional free milk.

Tool to find stores offering rewards for healthy purchases

All respondents expressed interest in rewards tied to healthy eating purchases

"Anything that's gonna help me save money is a plus for me...especially for fruits and vegetables, that's a plus." (SNAP-eligible, Younger, Kids)

SNAP-eligible individuals and participants expressed little concern about USDA's sponsorship of the app; Educators thought differently

Eligible individuals and participants reasoned that USDA's participation made the information on the app more reliable and/or more helpful.



App Content

"I probably would trust it a little bit more than just some random app builder. Because it's something we grew up learning to trust, you see it around on all the food packaging, they're the ones that make recalls, it seems like they would know." (SNAP-eligible, Younger, Kids)



"You don't always want your information out there, but they're well-known. It's not just another scary app. I'm assuming I could trust them. I would rather do it through USDA than creating an account with someone else." (SNAP-eligible, Younger, Kids)



"[Being sponsored by USDA] tells me it's not a gimmick. It's not a scam." (SNAP Participant, Older, No Kids)

SNAP Educators noted some of their clientele would be uncomfortable with the association with the Federal government.

Introducing Shop Simple with MyPlate

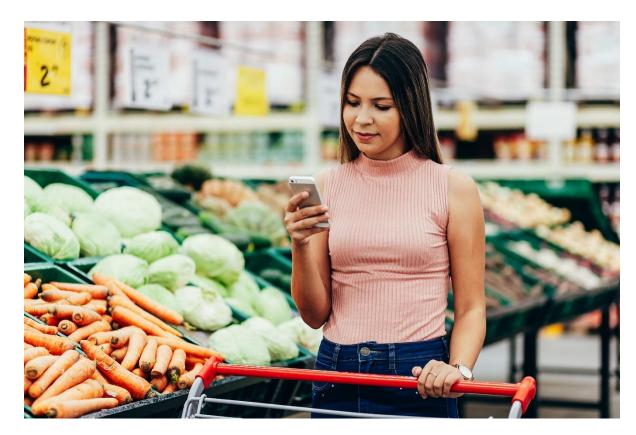






Goal

Shop Simple with MyPlate is a web app to help Americans save money while shopping for healthy food choices







Key Features

Consumers can use this tool to:

- 1. Quickly find SNAP savings in their local area
- 2. Discover new ways to prepare budget-friendly foods

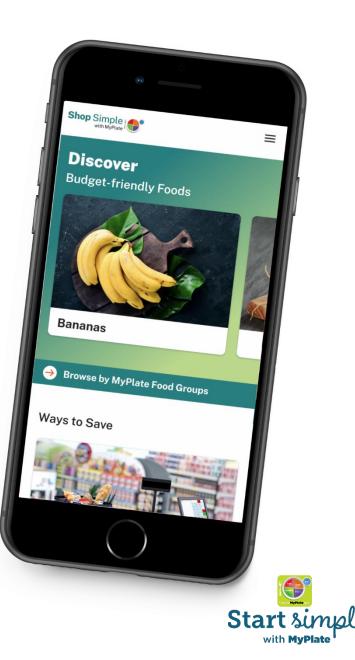






How to access

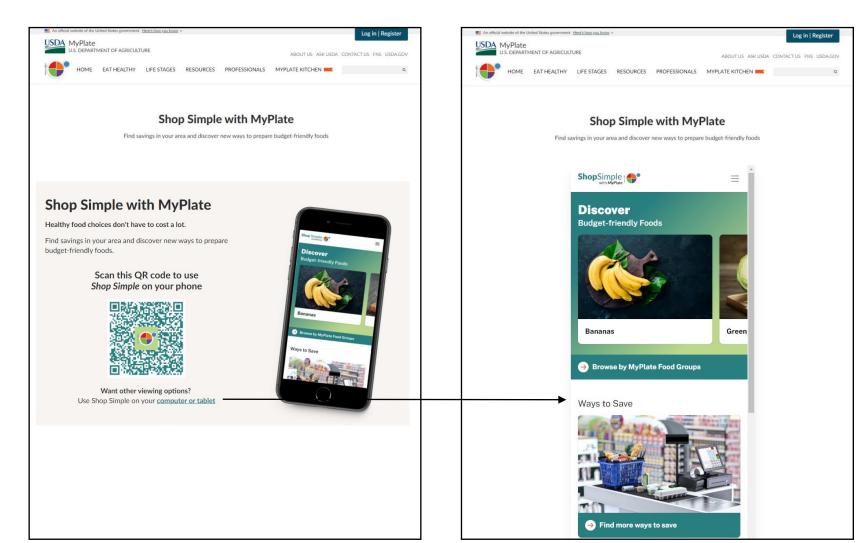
- Shop Simple is a web-based application optimized for use on a smartphone (feels like an app)
- Available directly at MyPlate.gov/ShopSimple; nothing to download from the App Store or Google Play





Works on all devices

 For users without access to a smartphone, it can be used on a desktop, laptop, or tablet in an iframe





Home Screen

 Browse budget-friendly foods in the photo carousel

• Browse budget-friendly foods by MyPlate food group

• Find ways to save, including general tips and local SNAP savings





Discover Budget-friendly Foods



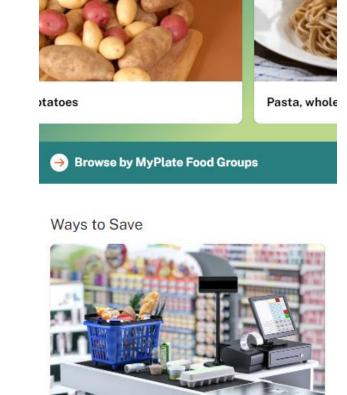


Ways to Save



Navigation Menu

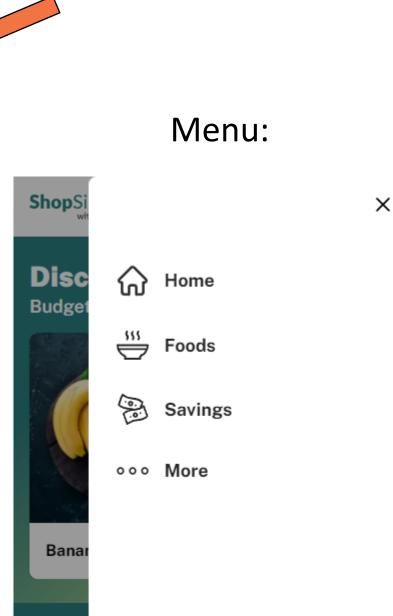
At any time when using *Shop Simple*, you can use the menu icon (three lines in the upper right corner) to go to a section of the tool



ShopSimple

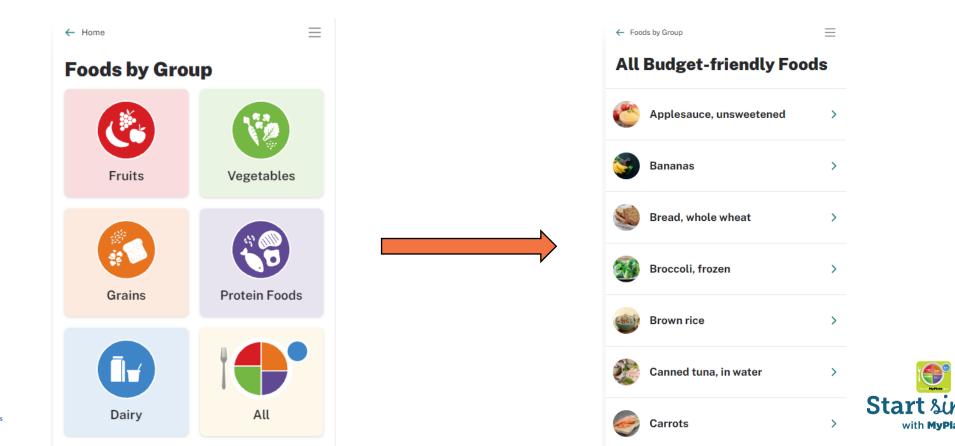
Discover

Budget-friendly Foods



Browse by food groups

• Browse through budget-friendly foods by food group, or view all foods in the tool listed alphabetically



Budget-friendly foods

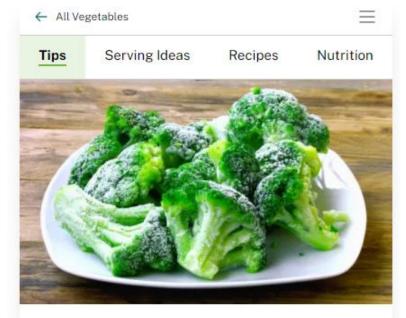
- 25 foods available at time of launch
- Foods were chosen for the tool based on a variety of factors:
 - **Cost** (data from Thrifty Food Plan report)
 - How common is the food (counts from What We Eat in America dataset)
 - Variety of forms: canned, frozen, fresh
 - Subgroup representation for Vegetables, Grains, and Protein Foods
 - **Recipes** available in MyPlate Kitchen
- Future: add more foods that represent all Americans



Food: Tips

Tap or click on a food to view **tips**, including:

- Storage information (food safety)
- Purchasing guidance (ways to save, types available, things to look for on the label)
- Other general tips



Broccoli, frozen

Tips

- Frozen broccoli can be stored in the freezer for 10-18 months.
- You can often save money by purchasing larger bags of frozen broccoli. Thaw only what you need at a time.
- Frozen broccoli is typically available in 3 cuts: spears (stem plus floret), florets (just the top portion), and chopped (diced stems and florets). Choose the one that works best for your family's taste and budget.

Food: Serving Ideas

Use the tab at the top to view **serving ideas**:

- Quick, easy ways to use the food
- Not full recipes; simple ideas to get you started



Broccoli, frozen

Serving Ideas

All Vegetables

- Steam frozen broccoli on the stove until it is a rich, dark green color-usually 5-8 minutes. Add a dash of seasoning and enjoy!
- Broccoli pasta: Add frozen broccoli to the pot of boiling pasta about three minutes before the end of the cooking time. Season as desired.
- Roasted broccoli: Toss frozen broccoli with oil and a sprinkle of salt. Spread on a baking sheet and roast at 400 degrees F until browned.



Food: Recipes

Use the tab at the top to view **recipes**:

- Low-cost recipes from MyPlate Kitchen (\$ or \$\$)
- 3 to 4 recipes per food
- Mixture of main dishes and sides
- Future: add more recipes that represent all Americans



Broccoli, frozen

Recipes

All Vegetables



Broccoli and Corn Bake



Cream of Broccoli Soup



Basic Quiche



All Recipes

Food: Recipes

Tap or click on a recipe to view the full recipe, including photo, number of servings, ingredients, directions, and nutrition info

Broccoli and Corn Bake



Makes: 6 servings Total cost: \$555

This recipe will help you make half your plate fruits and vegetables. Serve this broccoli and corn dish warm at any meal.

Ingredients

- 1 can cream-style corn (14.75 ounce)
- 3 3/4 cups broccoli (frozen, cooked)
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 1/2 cup cracker crumbs (crushed)
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 6 saltine crackers (crushed)
- 1 tablespoon tub margarine (or butter) (melted)

Directions

1. Mix corn, broccoli, egg, cracker crumbs and oil together in greased 11/2 quart casserole.

All Recipes

- 2. Mix topping ingredients together in small bowl. Sprinkle over corn mixture.
- 3. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

Nutrition Information

Serving Size: 1/6 of recipe

Nutrients	Amount
Total Calories	214
Total Fat	13 g
Saturated Fat	2 g
Cholesterol	31 mg
Sodium	135 mg
Carbohydrates	23 g
Dietary Fiber	3 g
Total Sugars	3 g
Added Sugars	0 g
Protein	5 g
Calcium	34 mg
Potassium	216 mg
Iron	1 mg
Vitamin D	0 mcg

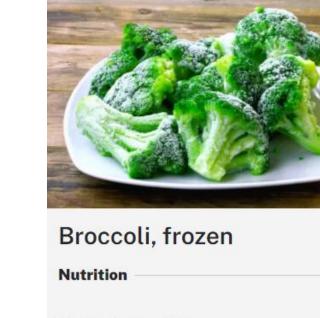
N/A-data is not available

Show More Information

Food: Nutrition Information

Back on the food screen, use the tab at the top to view **nutrition information**:

- How much of that food counts as a cup or ounce in the MyPlate food group
- Full nutrition facts panel for that amount of the food



Serving Ideas

Recipes

Nutrition

All Vegetables

Tips

MyPlate Food Groups

Amount that counts as 1 cup of Vegetables:

· 1 cup, chopped or florets

fresh or frozen

Vegetables Protein

← All V	egetables		\equiv
Tips	Serving Ideas	Recipes	Nutrition

Nutrition Information

Serving Size: 1 cup, chopped or florets, fresh or frozen

Nutrients	Amount
Total Calories	52
Total Fat	0 g
Saturated Fat	0 g
Cholesterol	0 mg
Sodium	20 mg
Carbohydrates	10 g
Dietary Fiber	6 g
Total Sugars	3 g
Added Sugars	0 g
Protein	6 g
Calcium	77 mg
Potassium	294 mg
Iron	1 mg
Vitamin D	0 mcg

N/A - data is not available

Show More Information

Savings

Discover tips for saving money when purchasing and preparing healthy food choices

Find SNAP savings in your local area



← Home		\equiv
Saving	(S	
Use these	tips to save more at the store	
	Make a Plan	>
	Shop Smart	>
	Prepare Healthy Meals	>

Are you a SNAP participant?

Find stores that accept SNAP and participate in incentive programs that help stretch your dollar

Savings: General Tips

Use the buttons to view content from MyPlate.gov

← Home				
Saving	Savings			
Use these t	ips to save more at the store			
	Make a Plan	>		
	Shop Smart	>		
	Prepare Healthy Meals	>		

← Savings

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Make a Plan

Making a plan before heading to the store can help you get organized, save money, and choose healthy options.



la	n Your Weekly Meals	
lere	are some simple tips to get you started:	
	White down your mode	
	Write down your meals.	
	It's helpful to write out your meals for the week including	
	breakfast, lunch, dinner and	
	snacks. You can also use the	
	<u>Create a Grocery Game Plan -</u> <u>Weekly Calendar</u> as a guide.	

← Savings

store.

Shop Smart

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Prepare Healthy Meals

Use these tips to save time when cooking at home. Browse Shop Simple Recipes to discover delicious and budget-friendly recipes your family will love.



Kitchen Timesavers

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Try these kitchen timesavers to cut back on time and make less work for you. By taking the stress and hassle out of cooking, you'll have more time to enjoy it and to spend with your loved ones.

Have everything in place	e
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Grab all ingredients needed	
for your meal – chopped	
vegetables, measured spices,	
and thawed meats. It will be	
easier to spot missing items	
and avoid skipping steps.	



To get the most for your dollar, follow the tips in

this section as you shop at your favorite food

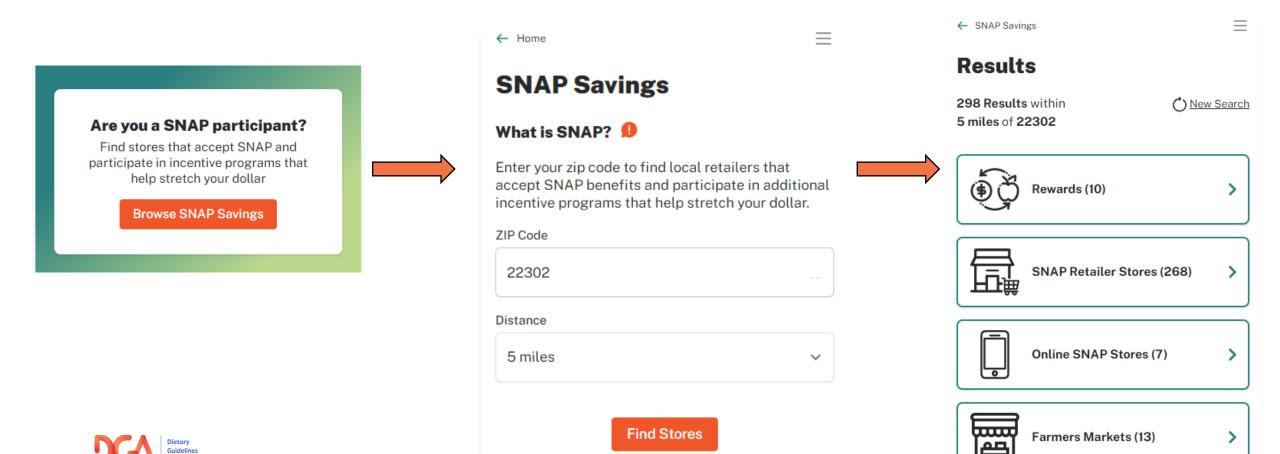
Tips for Every Aisle

Use the tips below to fill your cart with budgetfriendly and healthy options from each food group.

Fruits and Vegetables	>
Grains	>
Protein Foods	>
Dairy	>

Local SNAP Savings

Enter your zip code to find cost-saving opportunities in your local area



Market

22202

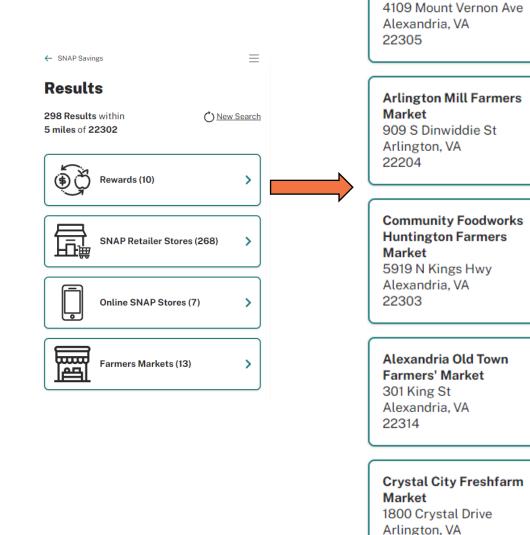
Rewards

Four Mile Run Farmers

GusNIP Participating Retailers 👂

Local SNAP Savings: Rewards

- GusNIP Participating Retailers: The retailers on this list participate in a reward program for purchasing fruits and vegetables (programs may vary by location)
- Plans to add more incentive programs in the future, as available





0

1.75 miles

0

2.33 miles

0

2.65 miles

0

2.97 miles

2.97 miles

Safeway 3250 3526 King St

Alexandria, VA

CVS Pharmacy 11191

22302

SNAP Retailer Stores 9

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0

0.03 miles

0

SNAP Retailer Stores

 Retailers that accept EBT cards for in-store SNAPeligible purchases

	Alexandria, VA 22302	
← SNAP Savings 📃		
Results 298 Results within 5 miles of 22302	Walgreens 18330 3614 King St Alexandria, VA 22302	O.10 miles
(\$) Rewards (10)		
SNAP Retailer Stores (268)	The Fresh Market 174 3680 King St Alexandria, VA 22302	0.22 miles
Online SNAP Stores (7)	CVS PHARMACY 1382	•
Farmers Markets (13)	1521 N Quaker Ln Alexandria, VA 22302	0.23 miles
	7-Eleven Inc F 10732A 1667 N Quaker Ln	Q.36 miles



Online SNAP Stores

 Retailers currently participating in a SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot in that area

	Unline SNAP Retailers 🤑
← SNAP Savings	ALDI 🖸
Results 298 Results within CNew Search 5 miles of 22302	Amazon
Rewards (10)	Food Lion
SNAP Retailer Stores (268)	Giant of Maryland
Online SNAP Stores (7)	Martin's
Farmers Markets (13)	Publix 🖸
	Walmart 🖸

All Results

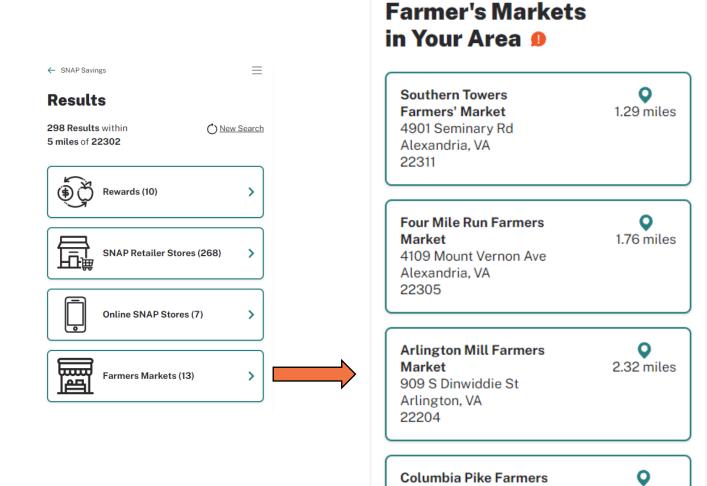


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Farmers Markets

• Farmers Markets that accept SNAP EBT cards



All Results

Market

22204

Arlington, VA

2820 Columbia Pike



2.38 miles

Summary

Shop Simple with MyPlate is a web app to help Americans save money while shopping for healthy food choices, by

- 1. Finding SNAP savings in their local area
- 2. Discovering new ways to prepare budget-friendly foods







Promotional images available















Future goals:

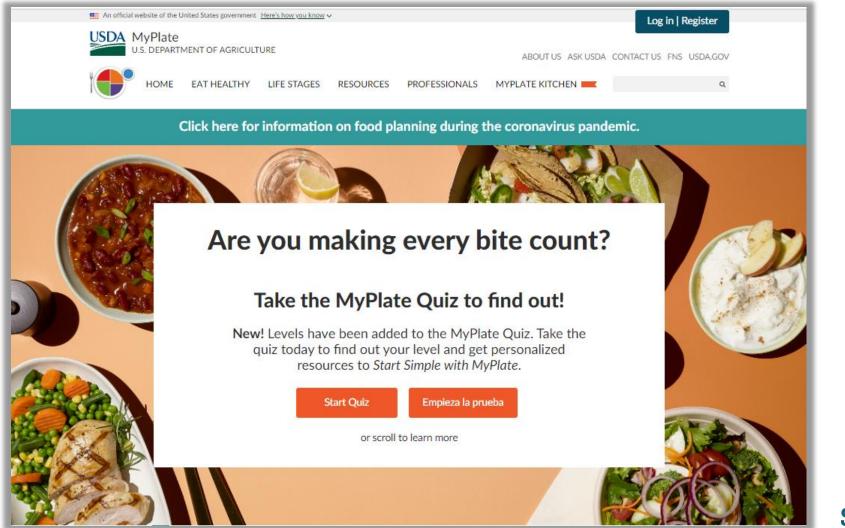
- Add more foods and recipes that represent all Americans
- Add more reward/incentive programs, as available
- Add locator tools for additional food support resources, as available
- Consider making the tool available in other languages





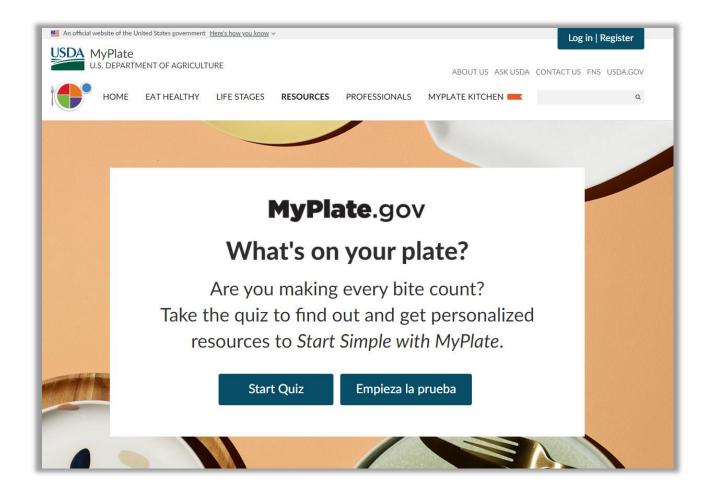


MyPlate Quiz





MyPlate Quiz



An interactive online tool that consumers can use to assess their nutrition knowledge and eating behaviors

Now available in Spanish





Users answer a series of 20 questions about the MyPlate food groups and their healthy eating interests

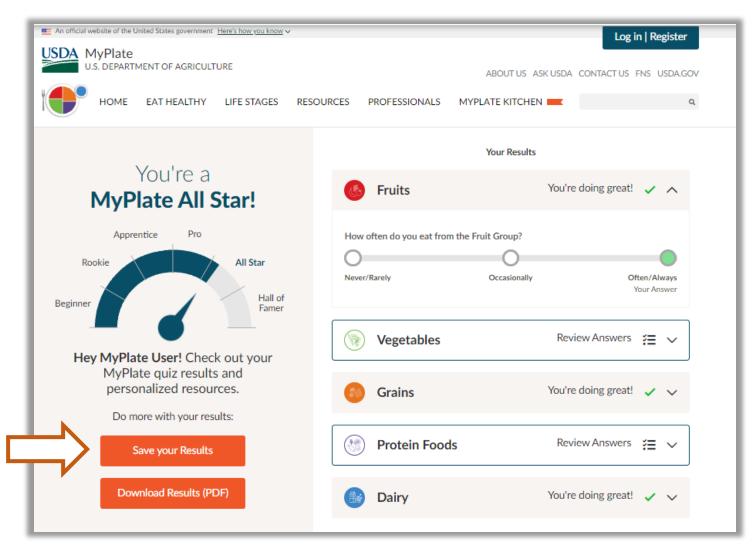






MyPlate Quiz Results page

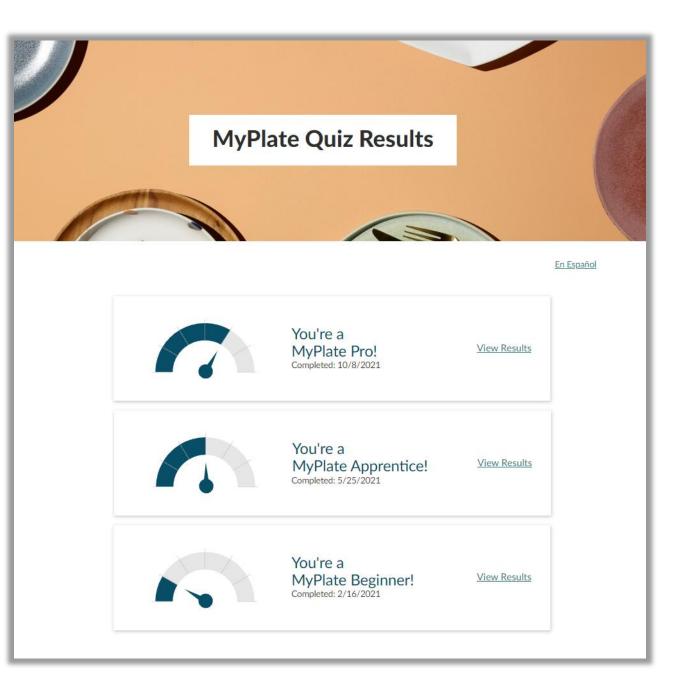
Consumers receive a snapshot of how they're doing on the MyPlate food groups



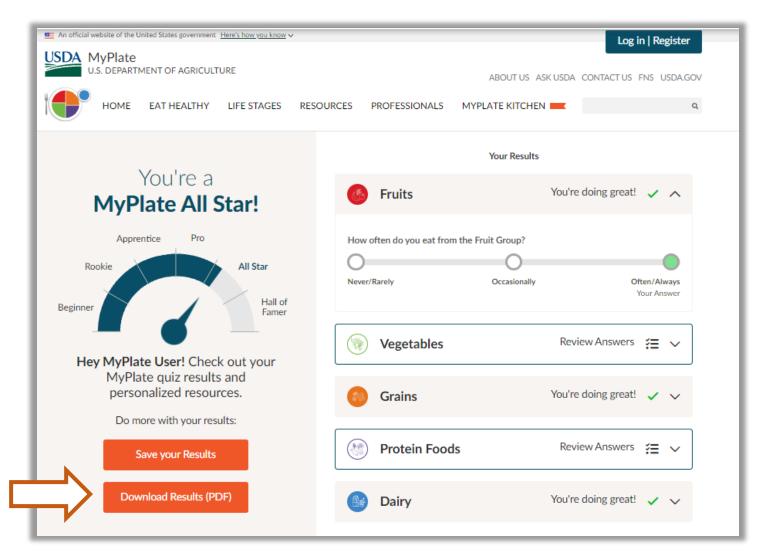




Saved MyPlate Quiz Results

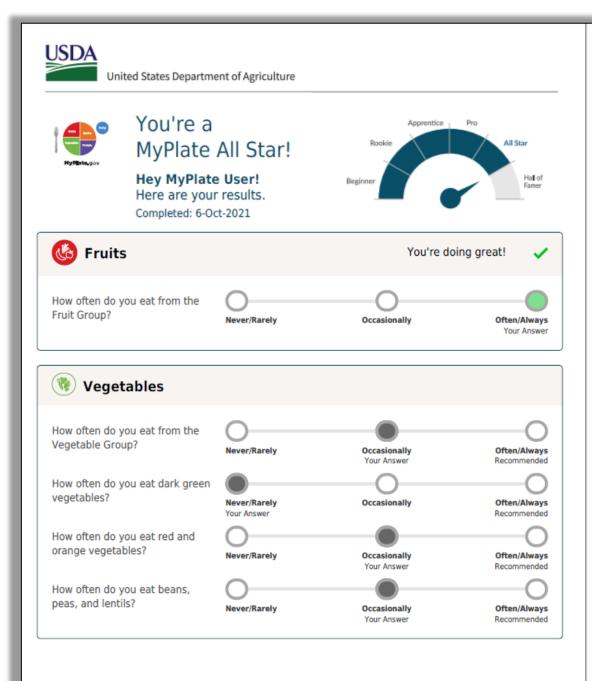


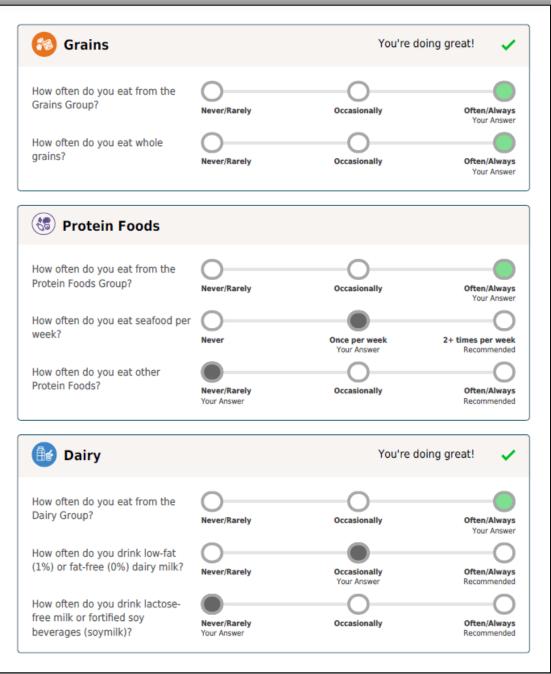
MyPlate Quiz Results page



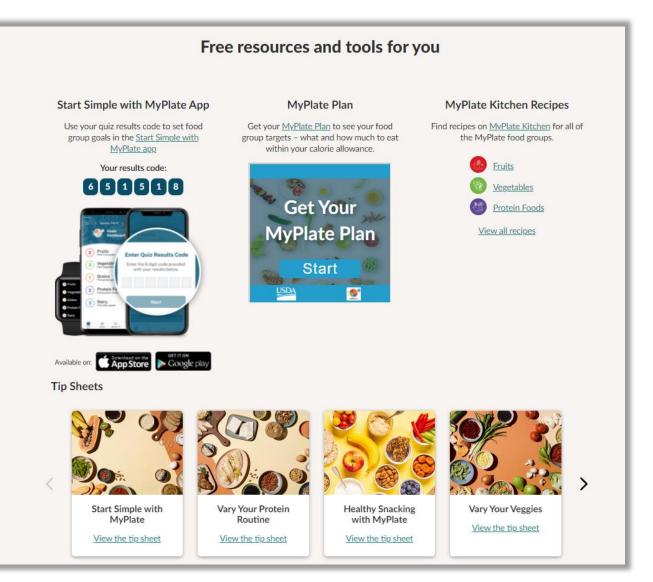








MyPlate Quiz Results page

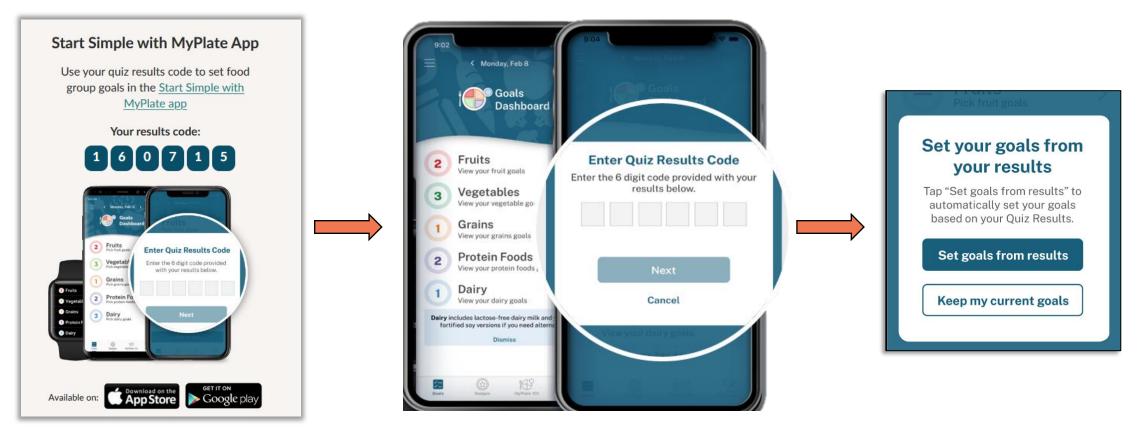


The results page also provides the user with a list of personalized resources based on their quiz results

- Start Simple with MyPlate app
- MyPlate Plan
- MyPlate Kitchen Recipes
- Tip Sheets



Set Goals from the MyPlate Quiz

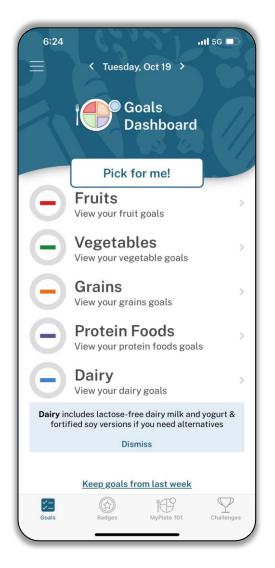


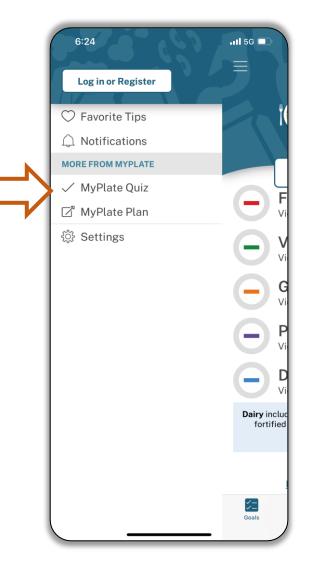
Users receive both a custom 6-digit code & QR code on their quiz results page that can be used to set goals in the *Start Simple with MyPlate* app





Closer look – Sync with the Start Simple App







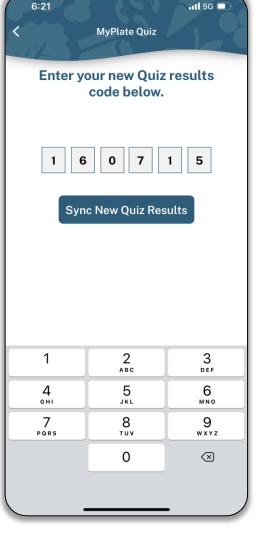


Closer look – Sync with the Start Simple App

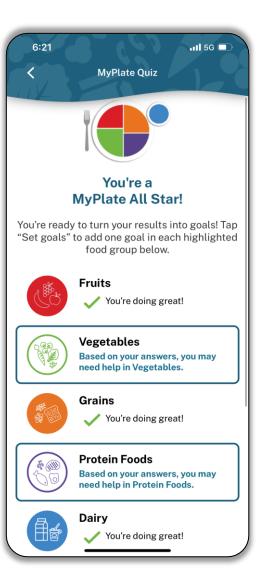
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Enter your Quiz **Results Code**

- Earn the MyPlate Quiz Badge
- 3 View your MyPlate Level and sync goals









Final Step: Sync with the Start Simple App



Once you set goals from your MyPlate Quiz results, one goal from each recommended food group will be added to your daily goals

Note: Goals reset weekly (Monday morning), you can select to 'Keep goals from last week' if you would like to continue to work on them.



New Resources on MyPlate

• Alexa Skill

- Nutrition information for parents and caregivers on how and what foods to feed babies and toddlers based on their age
- Information available for ages 4-24 months
- \circ \quad Based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- MyPlate Plan PDFs (English & Spanish)
- Tip sheet pages are available in Spanish





MyPlate on Alexa

Future plans:

- Linking users to relevant information on MyPlate.gov through quick links ("For more information about iron sources for your baby, visit myplate.gov/infants")
- Expanding to ages 2+
- Adding information for those who are pregnant or breastfeeding





MyPlate Plan PDFs

www.MyPlate.gov/MyPlate-Plan



Promotional Graphics Available



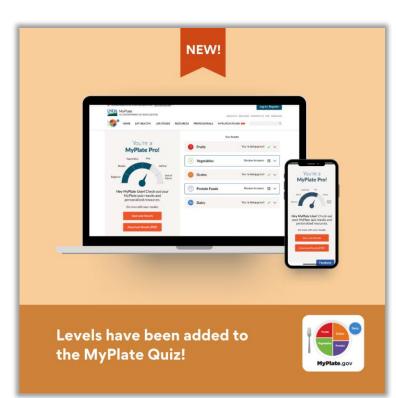








Promotional Graphics Available





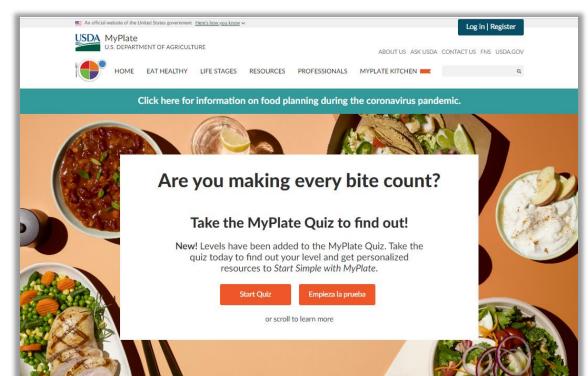
Find out your MyPlate level













Any Questions?



