

January 2025 – Agri-Pulse: FDA proposes front-of-pack labeling ahead of administration shift

“The Sugar Association also opposed the proposal out of concern the lack of requirements for calories and industrial additives could backfire and incentivize the use of artificial sweeteners. ‘Most Americans prefer to avoid low- and no-calorie sweeteners in food, and health organizations have repeatedly raised concerns about their widespread use,’ said Courtney Gaine, president and CEO of Sugar Association. ‘At some point, some agency needs to acknowledge that we don’t have a good grasp on how pervasive these sweeteners have become in our food supply, unbeknownst to most Americans.’”

December 2024 – Food Business News: FDA redefines ‘healthy’

“Courtney Gaine, PhD, president and chief executive officer of The Sugar Association, took issue with the added sugars update. ‘The Sugar Association supports the Dietary Guidelines recommendation to limit added sugars to 10% of total calories, but the new ‘healthy’ definition goes well beyond that recommendation and arbitrarily excludes many foods containing added sugars that are key providers of essential nutrients, such as fruit yogurt,’ she said. ‘With this rule, FDA is once again incentivizing further use of industrial additives like low- and no-calorie sweeteners in food, which have proliferated over the last several decades, going well beyond their well-known and easily identifiable role in beverages and now showing up as unidentifiable chemical names buried on ingredient lists for foods, including in food for children.’”

October 2024 – Ag Week: New school lunch rules are a ‘mixed bag’ to the sugar industry

“Managers of the school lunch programs will need to find a way to continue to make their foods palatable while reducing the sugar, which may result in reformulating them to include low- and no-calorie sweeteners, which Gaine does not believe is a healthy alternative to added sugars... ‘When you put a limit of 6 grams of cereal on added sugars and there’s 8 grams of sugar, that will come from somewhere else,’ Gaine said, noting that [substitution with low- and no-calorie sweeteners] will also occur with yogurt and flavored milk.”

August 2024 – Food Business News: Front-of-pack labeling for added sugars coming soon

“Mandatory front-of-pack (FOP) labeling rules for added sugars, expected from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in October (originally expected in June), are just the beginning of government efforts to reduce sugar consumption and prompt product reformulation away from sugar, Courtney Gaine, PhD, president and chief executive officer, The Sugar Association, told attendees at the International Sweetener Symposium Aug. 6.”

June 2024 – FoodPrint: What does USDA’s new nutrition rule mean for school meals?

“An interesting counterpoint on the inclusion of added sugars in the new rule came from a trade group, the Sugar Association, during deliberations about the rule. The group supported limits on added sugars but called applying limits to individual products like flavored dairy products ‘arbitrary,’ cautioning that the new standards could inadvertently lead to increased use of artificial sweeteners. These additives are not addressed in the new rule but have their own health ramifications, highlighting a potentially significant oversight by the USDA.”

April 2024 – The New York Times: New Nutrition Guidelines Put Less Sugar and Salt on the Menu for School Meals

“The Sugar Association, a trade group, said it supported limiting added sugars in a weekly menu but called applying limits to individual products like flavored dairy products ‘arbitrary.’ The group also warned that the new standards might lead to increased use of artificial sweeteners, which is not addressed but could have its own health ramifications.”

Read more news [here](#).