



Food Waste Audit





Why Conduct a Food Waste Audit?

- Student food waste audits are a great way to LEARN which foods go uneaten by students in a school cafeteria.
- The information gathered from a food waste audit can HELP schools develop ways to reduce wasted food.
- Most importantly, the food waste audit can identify WHY students are throwing certain foods away, which can allow schools to develop ideas on how to encourage students to eat their nutritious meals.

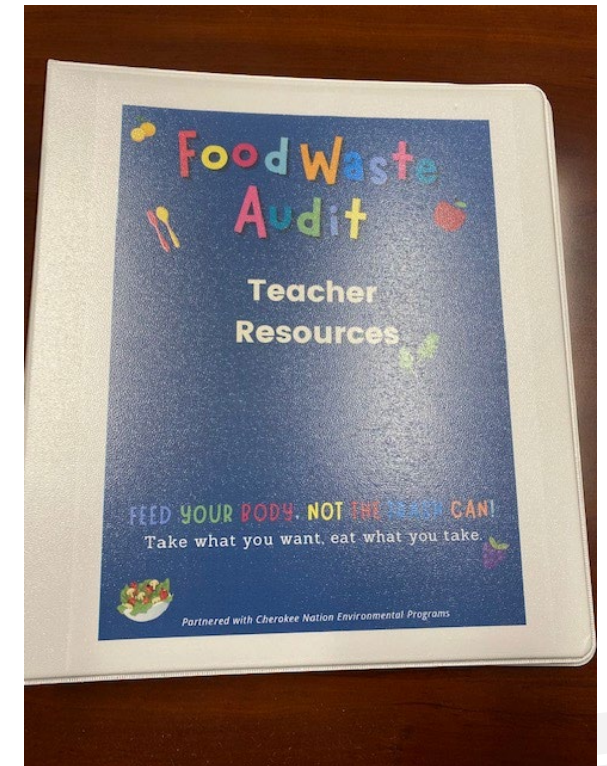
Steps to Conduct a Food Waste Audit

- Buy supplies for audit (buckets, aprons, clipboards, weight scales, gloves, paper towels, etc.)
- Contact potential school (we chose elementary school during summer school for our first audit)



Steps to Conduct a Food Waste Audit

- A few days before the audit find out how many students will be participating, select volunteers (4 volunteers for every 100 students), ask about permission to take photos of students.
- Meet with cafeteria staff and teacher(s) to go over plan for the audit (how trash will be emptied during audit, borrowing utensils, etc.).
- Hand out teacher resource packets (announcement, tips, fact sheets, activity book, guide to food waste audit).



Steps to Conduct a Food Waste Audit

- Get copy of menu for the day of audit, print labels and laminate (words and pictures) for buckets. We placed labels on the table so students could easily see them.



Day of Food Waste Audit:

- Set up audit area (restrict student access to trash cans).
- Have an area for unopened food items.



Day of Food Waste Audit:

- Put up signage, we placed a couple of signs in the cafeteria.
- Walk student volunteers through what they will be doing.



Day of Food Waste Audit:

- Start audit: When the students have finished their lunch the volunteers will conduct the food interview by asking each student why they didn't eat the food items. The volunteer will fill out the student interview sheet.



Day of Food Waste Audit:

- The other student volunteers will place food items in the appropriate buckets.
- Once liquid buckets get half full, weigh and empty, they will get heavy.



Day of Food Waste Audit:

- Stack trays.
- Empty trash as needed.
- Once audit is over, weigh the buckets and record.



Day of Food Waste Audit:

- Count trays after audit.
- Help clean up!
- Take lots of photos!
- NOTE: We lined the buckets with trash bags for easier clean up.



After Food Waste Audit:

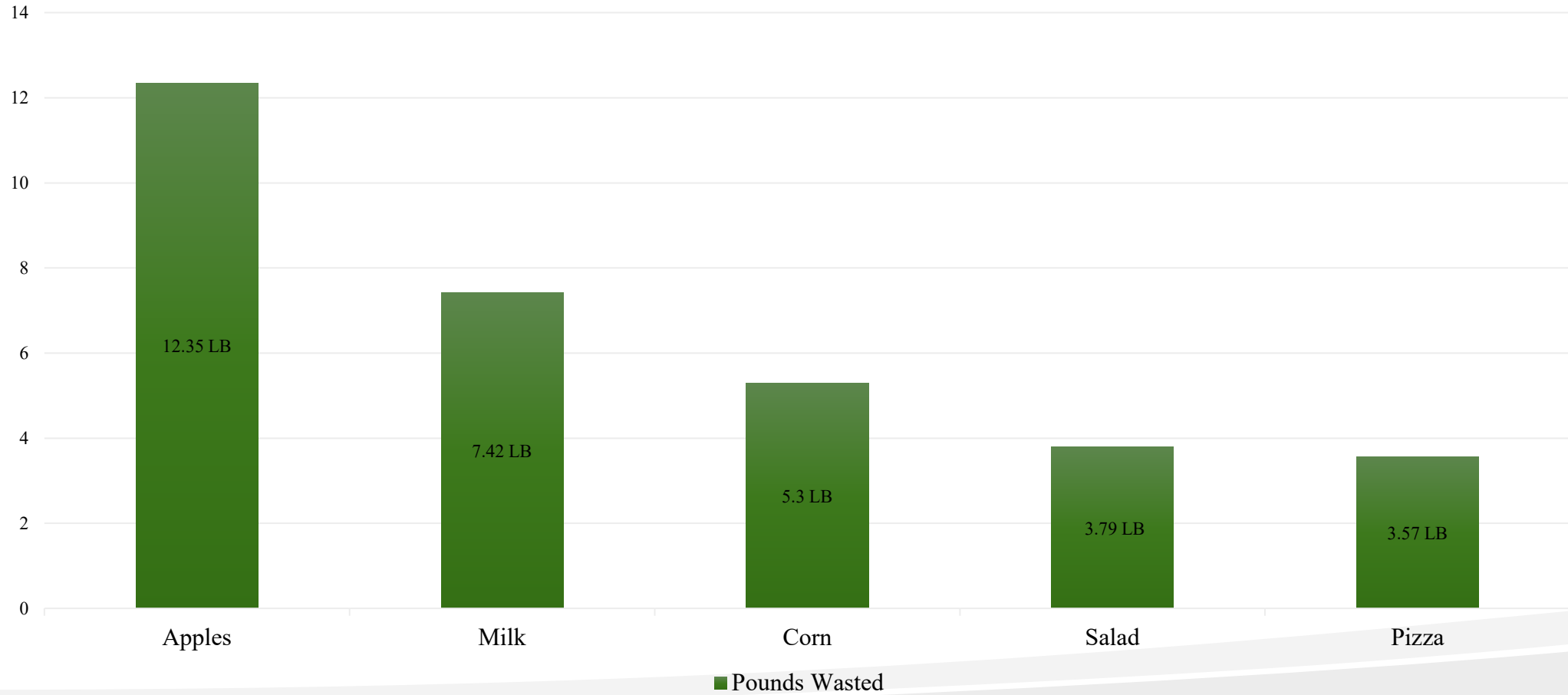
- Create summary of audit; number of participants, weights of each of the buckets, total weight, average of the most common replies for not eating the food items.
- Help create ideas and resources to help reduce food waste in their school.





Pounds Wasted

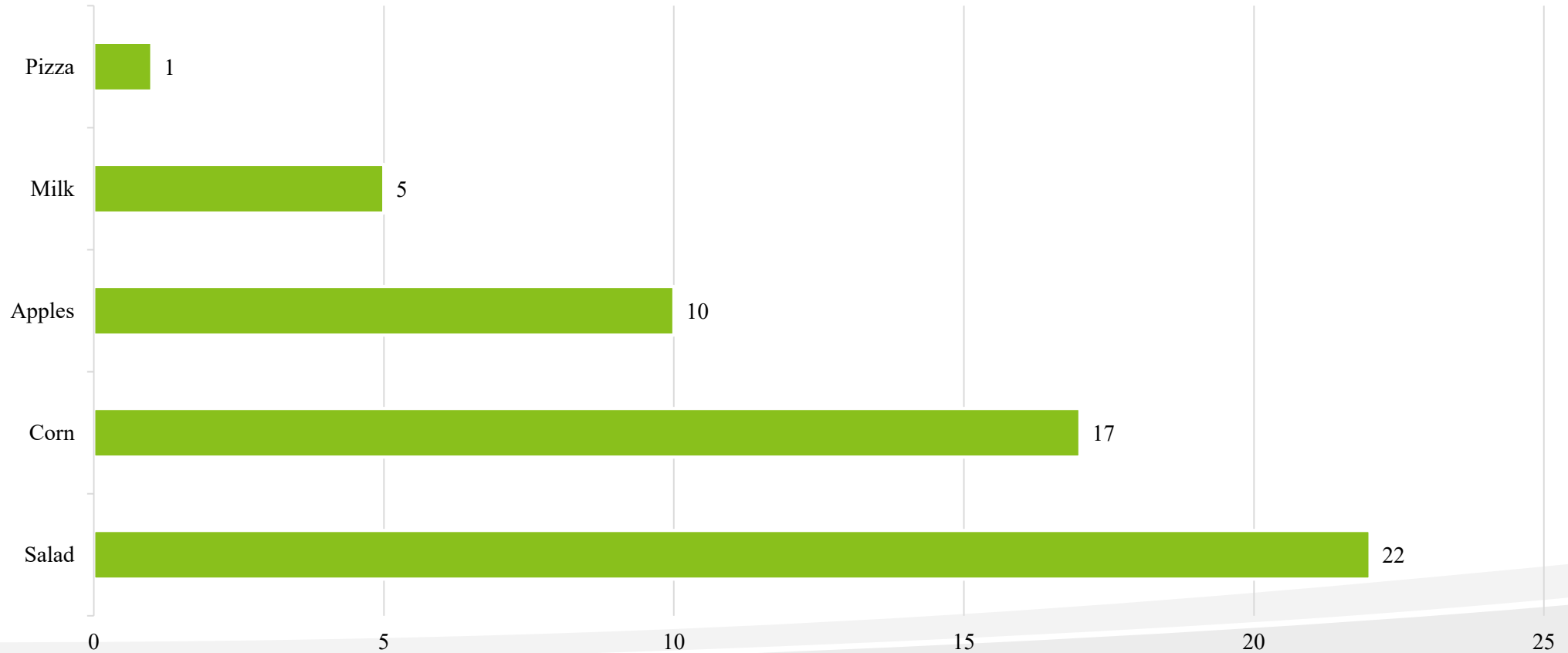
Pounds Wasted





Most Common Responses

Number of "I do not like it" Responses out of 65 Students





Reasons for Not Eating Food

Reasons For Food Items Being Wasted, Per Student Interviews:

Food Item	Reason #1	Reason #2	Reason #3
Apples	Do Not Like Apples	Core (Too Hard)	Full
Milk	Full	Like Chocolate Better	Do Not Like Milk
Corn	Do Not Like Corn	Not Sweet/Too Salty	Does Not Taste Good
Salad	Do Not Like Salad	Do Not Like Items In Salad	Full
Pizza	Too Hard	Too Much Seasoning	Do Not Like Sauce

Student Interview Sheet

Location: Briggs School

Date: Thursday, June 16, 2022

Type of Food	Reason for Not Eating Food Item
Pizza	
Salad	
Corn	
Fruit	
Milk	

Type of Food	Reason for Not Eating Food Item
Pizza	
Salad	
Corn	
Fruit	
Milk	

Type of Food	Reason for Not Eating Food Item
Pizza	
Salad	
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Milk	

Type of Food	Reason for Not Eating Food Item
Pizza	
Salad	
Corn	
Fruit	
Milk	

Food Separator Weight Log

Weight of empty bucket: _____

Number of trays: _____

	Food Type	Weight (Include weight of bucket)
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____
16.	_____	_____
17.	_____	_____
18.	_____	_____
19.	_____	_____
20.	_____	_____
21.	_____	_____



Food Waste Audit



Partnered with Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs



Food Waste Audit

Coming to Your School
Thursday, June 16, 2022

The food waste audit is intended to help educate students about the amount of food they waste in their school cafeterias and to encourage them to reduce waste and eat more nutritious foods.

FEED YOUR BODY, NOT THE TRASH CAN!

Take what you want, eat what you take.



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Questions?

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