



Dig in to “What’s Cooking, Uncle Sam?” and learn about the history behind the Government’s involvement with food. Some of your discoveries may surprise you—like how anthropologist Margaret Mead and singer Pete Seeger helped the War Food Administration; or what was on the menu at Lyndon B. Johnson’s State Dinners; and why one group of Government volunteers was called the “Poison Squad.”

And if you leave hungry for more, endless discoveries await in the holdings of the National Archives.



You may know that genetically engineered plants can now be patented, but did you know that at one time Congress distributed seeds to farmers for free? Find more surprises in Government agricultural records from the days of horse and plow to today’s mechanized farm.

Look for:

The map that traces the travels of Frank Meyer, foreign plant explorer, from the vast grasslands of Manchuria to the tiger-patrolled mountains of Siberia



Discover why canned meat, ketchup, and candy were so dangerous at the time of the Industrial Revolution and what was done about it. This section explores the evolution of Government regulations on the way food is processed and labeled.

Look for:

Upton Sinclair’s original letter to President Theodore Roosevelt about the meat packing industry



In this section, find out why there were times when the Government wanted us to “eat the carp,” “share the meat,” and “know our onions.” Explore the food guides that preceded the pyramid and the pressures placed on patriots to stay strong.

Look for:

A brochure that explains how doughnuts improve morale



In mess halls and school lunch rooms across the country, Government food has instilled eating habits in millions of Americans. Favorite meals of Presidents have inspired Americans to try new foods. Explore some of the unintentional effects Government has had on the American appetite.

Look for:

Queen Elizabeth II’s recipe for scones

