The Bureaucracy of Taco Trucks 

Taking a Closer Look at How the Federal Bureaucracy Governs Your Taco!

1789 the State Department had 9 employees, the War Department had 2, and the Treasury Department had 39. Today, the State Department employs about 32,000 civilians, the Defense Department about 760,000, and the Treasury Department about 108,000. The federal bureaucracy today boasts *15 Cabinet departments* and *dozens of agencies, regulatory commissions, and government corporations,* with a *civilian workforce of more than 2.8 million*. The bureaucratic behemoth exercises power and influence over virtually every facet of the nation’s social and economic life*.* In the view of many observers, the power, reach, and independence of the federal bureaucracy demand that it be viewed as a *fourth branch of government*.

*Directions*: Your task is to take each component of a taco truck and, using the links below, research the federal agencies and departments that would regulate it in some way. Use the chart on the reverse side to explain how each component of the taco truck is regulated by the agency and/or department.

**Internet Resources:**

The links below will assist you in determining how each federal agency and/or department regulates each taco truck component:

* **Food Truck Regulations**
	+ <https://foodtruckr.com/2017/03/street-food-rules-and-regulations-food-truckers-should-know-about/>
* **Taco Shells**
	+ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/CID%20Tortillas%2C%20Tortilla%20Chips%2C%20Taco%20Shells%2C%20and%20Tostada%20Shells.pdf>
* **Taco Meat**
	+ <http://www.newser.com/story/186139/taco-bell-reveals-exactly-whats-in-its-mystery-meat.html>
	+ <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/food-safety-education/get-answers/food-safety-fact-sheets/production-and-inspection/inspection-and-grading-of-meat-and-poultry-what-are-the-differences_/inspection-and-grading-differences>
* **Cheese**
	+ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards/cheddar-cheese-grades-and-standards>
* **Tomato**
	+ <https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards/tomato-grades-and-standards>
* **Lettuce**
	+ <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/UCM169008.pdf>
* **Sour Cream**
	+ <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2006-title21-vol2/pdf/CFR-2006-title21-vol2-sec131-160.pdf>
* **Beans**
	+ <http://www.registrarcorp.com/fda-fce-sample/Refried_Beans?lang=en>
* **Avocado**
	+ <http://www.thepacker.com/fruit-vegetable-news/USDA-eases-avocado-regulations-126125793.html>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ingredients** |  |
| **Food Truck Regulations**Image result for food truck | Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Oversight: |
| **Taco Shells**Image result for clip art taco shell | Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Oversight: |
| **Taco Meat**Image result for clip art ground beef | Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Oversight: |
| **Cheese**Related image | Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Oversight: |
| **Tomato**Related image | Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Oversight: |
| **Lettuce****C:\Users\ellie\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.MSO\144EFF99.tmp** | Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Oversight: |
| **Sour Cream****C:\Users\ellie\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.MSO\74931E0F.tmp** | Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Oversight: |
| **Beans**Image result for clip art beans | Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Oversight: |
| **Avocado****C:\Users\ellie\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.MSO\8365D772.tmp** | Department/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regulatory Oversight: |

**Questions to Answer**

1. What generalizations can you make about the “bureaucracy of a taco truck” i.e. how involved are federal agencies and departments in the tacos that you eat?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages to consumers of tacos (like you) of federal rules and regulations? Advantages and disadvantages for taco truck businesses?

***Consumers***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
|  |  |

***Taco Truck Businesses***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
|  |  |

1. Based on what you learned from this activity about the bureaucracy of pizza, would you go into the pizza/taco business? Why or why not?