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FOOD EXPIRATION DATES

Information can be confusing

Tim Hrenchir

Topeka Capital-Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

The different types of expiration dates on meat, poultry, egg and dairy products sometimes create confusion. Some have a "sell-by" date.

Others come with a "use-by" date. Still others bear a "best-if-used-by" date.

The decision on which type of date to use lies with the manufacturer, said the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If used, expiration dates must be 'not misleading'

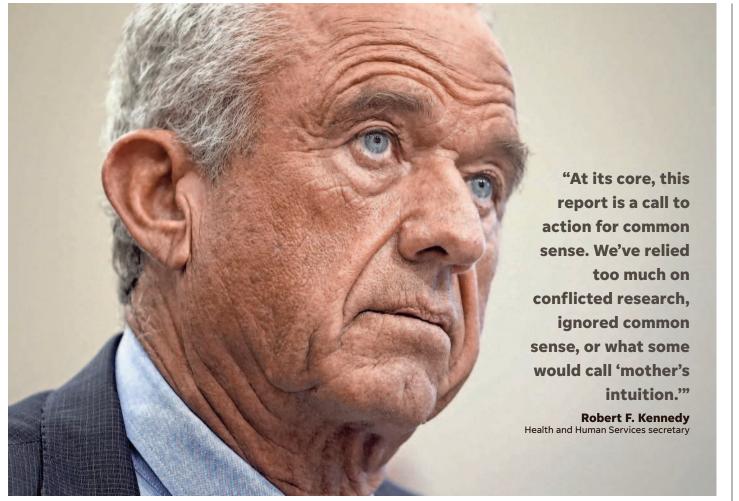
Except for baby formula, product dating is not required by federal regulations, according to the USDA website. "For meat, poultry and egg products under the jurisdiction of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), dates may be voluntarily applied provided they are labeled in a manner that is truthful, not misleading and in compliance with FSIS regulations," that site said.

If a label is used, it said, the federal government requires that label to be immediately adjacent to the expiration date and to display "a phrase explaining the meaning of that date such as 'Bestif-Used-By.'

Are the dates aimed at letting me know if the food will make me ill?

Manufacturers provide dating to help consumers and retailers decide when food products are of best quality, the

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SALINE COUNTY 2026 BUDGET

Officials seeking public input

Charles Rankin Salina Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

It's time for Saline County to finalize the 2026 budget, and leaders want the public's input, sooner rather than later.

While budget items are discussed throughout the year, the roughly onemonth time period from the middle of June to middle of July is when the county commission really gets into the weeds of it.

It's also the time that the public can

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy presented a report, which some Kansas farmers says paints a false narrative about the food system. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY

State farm groups respond to Kennedy's MAHA report

Jack Harvel and Adrianna Rodriguez Topeka Capital-Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. blames ultra-processed foods, environmental chemicals, lack of physical activity, chronic stress and "overmedicalization" for driving chronic diseases in U.S. children, according to a commis-

sion report published May 22. The 69-page report, titled "Making Our Children Healthy Again," also says

these drivers are partly propelled by corporate influence and government lobbying.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order to establish a commission to "Make America Healthy Again" during Kennedy's swearing in ceremony Feb. 13, and tasked it with investigating chronic illness and delivering an action plan to fight childhood diseases, starting with a report due within 100 days which it hit just under the deadline.

Trump, Kennedy and other admini-

stration officials touted the report during an afternoon event in the White House East Room. The president declared it marks "a historic milestone on our mission to make America healthy again."

Trump recounted his political alliance with Kennedy, a former Democrat and the nephew of Democratic President John F. Kennedy, who dropped his longshot independent campaign for

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really have the most impact on things.

"This is when people can actually say something meaningful that gets addressed," said

Phillip Smith-Hanes, county administrator.



The budget itself will be approved later in the Smithyear, likely by August, Hanes but at that point, the



commission can't really make major changes.

"If anyone gives input in August, we'll listen and politely ignore, because it's too late," Smith-Hanes said. "It's not that we don't respect your opinion when you come to that noticed public hearing, but all the real decisions have been made up to that point."

What kind of input does the county want?

The county only has limited resources each year and has to prioritize things within the budget, while also

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