

## RESEARCH PARTICIPANT CONSENT

Household Food Management Study v2 (IRB #2025-1069)  
Dr. Brenna Ellison, Principal Investigator  
Department of Agricultural Economics  
Sponsored by a grant from USDA-NIFA  
Purdue University

### Key Information

You are being asked to participate in this research study because you are between 18 and 75 years old, fluent in English, reside in the United States, and expressed interest in our study. Your participation is voluntary, which means that you may choose not to participate or leave the study at any time.

The purpose of this research is to learn more about how households manage their food at home. The total amount of time you will be in this study is 7 to 8 hours total over 8 to 10 days. During your participation, you will be asked to meet in person with researchers once, complete online surveys, and record food waste data. Additionally, you will have the option to meet with researchers via video conference to discuss household food management practices further. Taking part in this research involves the following risks or discomforts: stress or feeling uncomfortable answering some questions. These risks are no greater than those typically encountered in daily life. There may be benefits to you.

The benefits to society include informing future initiatives that positively impact the planet, offering households the opportunity to reallocate dollars spent on wasted food to other essential needs, and reducing food and nutrition insecurity.

Please read this form carefully and ask the researchers to explain anything you do not understand before you agree to be in the study.

### What is the study about?

You are being asked to participate in this study to help us learn more about how households manage their food at home and identify where food management behaviors can be improved to reduce food waste. This is because you are between 18 and 75 years old, fluent in English, reside in the United States, and expressed interest in our study.

### What will I do if I choose to be in this study?

You will be asked to:

1. **Meet in person with a researcher** to complete an online survey. You will also receive instructions, a digital food scale, and a cup for the next task. This meeting will be in a small group of up to 20 people. (~1 hour)
2. **Track your food waste at home for 5 days.** (~6 hours total over a 1-week period)
3. **OPTIONAL: 1:1 Interview with a researcher** via video conferencing (i.e., Zoom) to discuss household food management practices further. (~30 minutes)

We will collect information (via an online survey) about how your household manages food, including food knowledge, food resource management (including food waste), household food environment (e.g., do you have a freezer), and demographic data (e.g., age, gender, food access and availability, etc.). We also ask that you record and report 5 days of food waste data using a smartphone app (or a paper log). During the optional 1:1 interview, you will be asked to discuss your thoughts about

completing the survey and recording food waste, along with discussing potential ways you think you could improve your food management practices and decrease waste.

The procedures described are being done for research purposes.

### **How long will I be in the study?**

Your participation will involve 7 to 8 hours total over 8 to 10 days. This includes one in-person meeting with a researcher, completing an online survey, collecting/reporting 5 days of food waste data at home, and an optional one-time videoconferencing meeting with a researcher.

### **Please consider the risks of taking part in this study before you decide to participate.**

Breach of confidentiality is always a risk with data, but we will take precautions to minimize this risk as described in another section. Other risks associated with participation are minimal and no greater than those encountered in daily life. However, some possible risks are outlined here:

Possible risk(s)	How we're minimizing these risks
You may feel uncomfortable answering some questions in the online survey or interview.	Your answers are confidential, and there are no right or wrong responses. Additionally, you can skip any questions you don't want to answer on the survey and during the interview.
You may feel uncomfortable turning your camera on during video calls.	You control your video settings and can turn off your camera at any time without explanation or penalty. You can also decide the location for video calls to maintain privacy.
You may experience stress related to managing the study's logistics and requirements.	We provide technical support and training videos that you can watch at any time that explain study procedures. We are available to answer questions and will work with you to solve problems within the study guidelines.

In addition to the risks listed above, you may experience a previously unknown risk or side effect.

### **Are there any benefits?**

We cannot promise any direct benefit for taking part in this study. However, a possible benefit to you includes increased awareness about your food management practices and the amount of food waste in your household, which could, in turn, lead to improved food conservation and financial savings. Additionally, potential societal benefits include informing future initiatives that could positively impact the planet, offering households the opportunity to reallocate dollars spent on wasted food to other essential needs, and reducing food and nutrition insecurity.

### **How will the researchers protect my information?**

Every effort will be made to protect and maintain the confidentiality of your information. Research records will be stored in a secure online location, and access will be restricted to researchers and data collectors. Participants will be assigned a unique ID number. Any identifiable data (e.g., names, email addresses, etc.) collected will be stored separately from the research data. Transcripts of interviews with your assigned unique ID will be retained and stored in an online password-protected system.

### **Who will see the information collected in this research?**

Efforts will be made to limit the use and disclosure of your personal information, including research study records, to people who have a need to review this information. We cannot promise complete secrecy.

There are reasons why information about you may be used or seen by other people beyond the research team during or after this study. Examples include:

- Purdue University departments responsible for regulatory and research oversight, the US DHHS Office for Human Research Protections, and the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). (the study's sponsor).

Only the research team will have access to identifiable research records, data, etc. collected for this research. Your identifiable information will be stored in online password-protected systems; access is limited to members of the research team. Your identifiable data will be destroyed within 90 days after data collection for the study is completed.

Under Indiana law, Purdue researchers must report any suspected child abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to the Department of Child Services hotline." We will not ask you about child abuse, but if you tell us about child abuse or neglect, under Indiana law, Purdue researchers must report any suspected child abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to the Department of Child Services hotline.

#### **Will I receive payment or other incentive?**

Participants will receive \$40 for meeting with the researcher and completing the survey, and up to \$50 (i.e., \$10 per completed day) for completing 5 days of food waste audits. Participants will receive \$10 for completing the optional 1:1 interview. You must complete each step before proceeding to and receiving payment for the next one. The maximum potential payment is \$100 *if all steps are completed*. Partial payment will be given based on the steps completed. Payment is in the form of Amazon gift cards.

#### **Are there costs to me for participation?**

If you choose to participate in this study, there may be costs to you, including travel costs (and potentially parking costs) related to attending the one-time in-person meeting.

#### **What are my rights as a research participant in this study?**

Research studies include only people who choose to take part. Participation is voluntary. You can tell us that you don't want to be in this study. You can start the study and then choose to stop the study later. This will not affect your relationship with the investigator.

#### **How might the information collected in this study be shared in the future?**

We will keep the information we collect about you during this research study for study recordkeeping and for potential use in future research projects.

Your name and other information that can directly identify you will be stored securely and separately from the rest of the research information we collect from you.

De-identified data from this study may be shared with the research community, with journals in which study results are published, and with databases and data repositories used for research. We will remove or code any personal information that could directly identify you before the study data are shared. Despite these measures, we cannot guarantee the anonymity of your personal data.

The results of this study could be shared in articles and presentations but will not include any information that identifies you unless you give permission for use of information that identifies you in articles and presentations.

#### **Who can I contact if I have questions about the study?**

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about this research project, you can talk to the principal investigator, Brenna Ellison, [bdelliso@purdue.edu](mailto:bdelliso@purdue.edu), 765-496-2353.

To report anonymously via Purdue's Hotline, see [www.purdue.edu/hotline](http://www.purdue.edu/hotline)

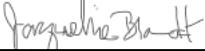
If you have questions about your rights while taking part in the study or have concerns about the treatment of research participants, please call the Human Research Protection Program at (765) 494-5942, email ([irb@purdue.edu](mailto:irb@purdue.edu)) or write to:

Human Research Protection Program - Purdue University  
Seng Liang Wang Hall 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
516 Northwestern Ave  
West Lafayette, IN 47906

**Consent**

By signing this consent form, I confirm I have read the information in this consent form and have had the opportunity to ask questions. I will be given a signed copy of this consent form. I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.

Jacqueline Brandt  
Printed Name of Participant

  
Jacqueline Brandt  
Signature of Participant

10/15/2025  
Date

   
Printed Name of Person Obtaining Consent

   
Signature of Person Obtaining Consent

   
Date