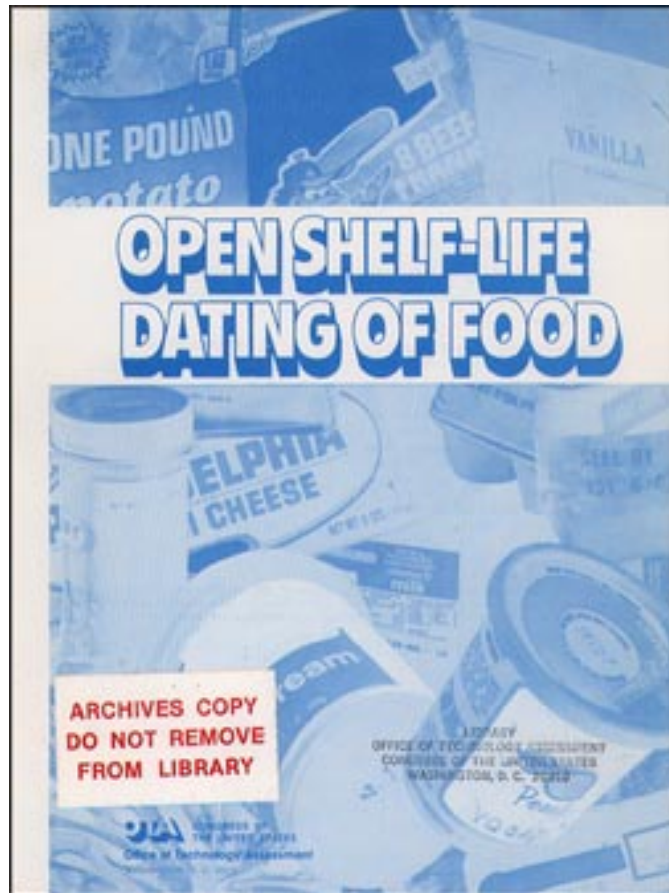


# *Open Shelf-Life Dating of Food*

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## Foreword

In this study OTA addressed the practicality of open shelf-life dating of food to disclose food freshness to the consumer. The assessment was undertaken at the request of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The Office of Technology Assessment formed a panel of consumer representatives, food retailers, processors, wholesalers, scientific experts, and State and Federal Government officials. Staffs of the Congressional Research Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration provided background information to the assessment. Individual papers and reports were commissioned concerning the scientific basis for open dating of food and the critical issues involved. A nationwide mail survey was conducted to gain the consumer's perspective. In addition, reviews of the draft reports were provided by Federal agencies and officials, and a wide spectrum of interested individuals.

These wide-ranging contributions were vital to the shaping of the assessment and to developing congressional options. To all of these people OTA acknowledges a deep debt of gratitude; however, the report is an OTA staff synthesis and does not necessarily reflect the position or views of any particular individual.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John H. Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JOHN H. GIBBONS  
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