| *Topic: Food Expiration Date Tracker* |  | *Author: Samir Y. Ali-Rivera* | |  | *Date: 8/29/2022* |
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| *Problem Background:*   * *A large amount of people don't pay attention to when their food expires and end up just throwing said food away. As a result this leads to an exorbitant amount of food being wasted needlessly.* * *According to Feeding America, more than 80 percent of Americans discard perfectly good food because they misunderstand expiration labels.* * *Even though all foods have an expiration label, people are often confused by “sell by”, “use by”, “expires on”, “best before” or “best by”. And due to such confusions many people in order to avoid food poisoning or other food-borne illness simply toss the food in the garbage.* | | | *Countermeasure:*   * Create a platform that allows the user to track all different types of foods and their expiration dates. * Implement a notification system that alerts the user when certain foods expire by using a “life bar”, calendar, and basic statistics. * A recipe recommendation system that helps the user find recipes with foods that the user wants to eat via the use of a search engine implementation. Or an external search with the exact ingredients the user wants. * Let the user create a list that tracks all different food groups accordingly. | | |
| *Target:*   * *The purpose of this project to be achieved is to help people track all the foods in the household alongside their expiration dates in order to minimize food waste exponentially.* | | |
| *Check/Evaluate:*   * *The project will be deemed a success if the users see a noticeable change in their food waste as well as how much money they save in groceries over an extended period of time.* * *On the contrary, the project's failure will be determined if the users did not see any particular change in their food waste. Additionally, the project will be deemed a failure if the platform is not easy to understand as well as to use.* * *The heart of the issue is food waste, if people are wasting less food and saving money in the process then it is safe to say our project is an excellent solution to a glaring global issue.* | | |
| *Causes:*  Misunderstanding expiration dates  Needlessly throwing away food that can still be consumed or composted  Under utilization of leftover food  Leaving leftover food then not knowing when it is still viable to eat  People waste much more food than necessary | | |
| *Act/Standardize:*   * *This project's future success will be determined by the user base and how helpful the platform can be.* * *Further improvement of the web-app such as the user interface and accessibility will help the platform grow.* * *If the project is successful, the platform could be an excellent countermeasure to a massive issue and can be further expanded on to be able to reach a wider audience for maximum efficacy.* | | |

