

# Eat Your Vegetables?

The U.S. federal government, displaying even less sense than usual, is **yielding to** the French fry industry. Frozen French fries—cut, fried in oil, and then packaged—are being approved as “fresh vegetables” by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The French fry industry has been asking the USDA for years to get this approval. They say that their product is similar to cucumbers that have **wax** on them. They argue that they use 100 percent vegetable oil, which is much healthier for consumers than plain wax.

Most **consumers**, of course, **beg to differ**. “You must be joking,” says Annie, 50. “How can you think a product that’s deep-fried in oil is a fresh vegetable? Even if I cooked broccoli, I could **no longer** call it fresh broccoli—it’s cooked! I wish I were a big company, so my congressman would help me. Unfortunately, I’m only a citizen.”

The USDA defends its decision, saying that potatoes **undeniably** are vegetables. “Although French fries are fried in oil, they are still potatoes. If you let them sit on your counter for a couple of weeks,” a USDA employee said, “the fries will rot just like all other fresh vegetables.”

**Consumers** say the USDA has totally **lost touch** with the public. “They’d probably say that eggshells are healthy if a company asked them to,” says one consumer.

## Vocab Phrase: Meaning

**yielding to**: agreeing

**wax**: polish

**consumers**: buyers, the public

**beg to differ**: disagree

**no longer**: not, no more

**undeniably**: without a doubt, no doubts

**lost touch**: don’t understand