

Robert M. Kerr Food & Agricultural Products Center



FOOD TECHNOLOGY FACT SHEET

Adding Value to Oklahoma

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Logos Vs. Labels: What's the Difference?

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Introduction

Branding is a critical component for any company wanting to have a presence in the marketplace. Not only does branding entail the communications strategy used to communicate your company's message, but it also relates to the emotions consumers have when they come in contact with your business. Messaging and communications, as well as marketing and promotional materials, work together to create a company's brand.

Logos and labels are two marketing pieces used to build and communicate your company brand. When differentiating between a logo and label, it is easy to confuse the two. While both are vital, must-have elements for any company selling a service or product, they serve two different purposes.

What is a Logo?

A logo is a symbol used to identify your company that brings instant public recognition. Logos use colors, fonts and images to convey a unique visual identity to represent and communicate your brand. This symbol is often used consistently on all marketing materials, including signs, paper, promotional items, etc.

Effective logos should offer a combination of identification, distinction and communication of your company.

- **Identification:** A logo identifies your company in the marketplace. It is often your first impression on potential customers. In a visually symbolic way, a logo represents your company to the outside world.
- **Distinction:** An effective logo will distinguish you from competitors. New products appear in the market each day; an effective logo delivers distinction from other companies for customers to recognize and select.
- **Communication:** Your logo should serve as a communication channel that says something about your company. Every logo says something about the company it represents, whether it is subtle or direct.

Font-based, literal illustrations and abstract symbols are the three most-used logo types.

1. **Font-based:** Consists solely of the company name in a unique font that makes it stand out, such as Coca-Cola.
2. **Literal illustrations:** Uses an illustration directly related to what the company does, such as a lawn mower alongside the name of a lawn-care service.
3. **Abstract symbols:** Immediately identified with the company's brand and image. This logo choice is a risky move, as it requires customers to immediately

Logo Examples



1. Font-based



2. Literal illustration



3. Abstract Symbols

associate your company with that symbol. However, established companies often evolve into this once they have built a prominent identity, such as Nike, Apple and Starbucks.

What is a label?

A label is an item attached to a product to inform consumers with a variety of information about the product and should always display the company's logo.

The Function of a Label

A label serves a multitude of purposes. One essential function of a label is to provide potential and existing consumers with information about the product. Labels offer mandatory information for packaged food products and state the facts of what is contained in the package. A proper label should include a principal display panel and an information panel. Labels also function as the first impression of a product. A label should carry a unique, visually appealing design that communicates your brand.

Principal Display Panel

The principal display panel is the part of a label that will first catch a consumer's eye when shopping. This panel displays the common name of the product, the net quantity of contents and usually the logo or brand of the

product (although the logo is optional and not required by law).

Information Panel

The information panel includes mandatory elements, including the ingredient listing, name and address of manufacturer, packer or distributor; number of servings, if used; nutrition facts labeling, if used; advisory statements, if needed; disclosure statement; and accompanying information (handling information, such as keep refrigerated, frozen, etc.). The information panel might also include non-regulatory information, including recipe ideas and the history of the company.



GOODNESS CORNER™

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 1 cup (30g)
Servings Per Container about 19

Amount Per Serving	Lucky Charms	with 1/2 cup skin milk
Calories	120	160
Calories from Fat	10	10
Total Fat 1g*	1%	2%
Saturated Fat 0g	0%	0%
Trans Fat 0g		
Polyunsaturated Fat 0.5g		
Monounsaturated Fat 0.5g		
Cholesterol 0mg	0%	1%
Sodium 200mg	8%	14%
Potassium 50mg	1%	7%
Total Carbohydrate 25g	8%	10%
Dietary Fiber 1g	4%	4%
Sugars 13g		
Other Carbohydrate 11g		
Protein 2g		
Vitamin A	10%	15%
Vitamin C	10%	10%
Calcium	10%	25%
Iron	25%	25%
Vitamin D	10%	25%
Thiamin	25%	30%
Riboflavin	25%	35%
Niacin	25%	25%
Vitamin B ₆	25%	25%
Folic Acid	50%	50%
Vitamin B ₁₂	25%	35%
Phosphorus	4%	15%
Magnesium	4%	8%
Zinc	25%	30%

*Amount in cereal. A serving of cereal plus skim milk provides 15g total fat, less than 6mg cholesterol, 200mg sodium, 200mg potassium, 81g total carbohydrate (18g sugars) and 6g protein.
†Percent Daily Values are based on a diet of 2,000 calories. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

	Calories	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	65g	13%	10%
Sat Fat	30g	6%	5%
Cholesterol	50mg	10%	10%
Sodium	2,400mg	48%	48%
Potassium	3,500mg	70%	70%
Total Carbohydrate	300g	60%	60%
Dietary Fiber	25g	5%	5%

INGREDIENTS: CORN, WHEAT, BROWN RICE, OAT FLOUR, MARSHMALLOWS, SUGAR, MODIFIED CORN STARCH, COUS CUSCUS, DEXTROSE, GELATIN, CALCIUM CARBONATE, YELLOW 5, BLUE 1, RED 40, ARTIFICIAL FLAVOR, SUGAR, CORN SYRUP, CORN SYRUP SOLIDS, SALT, CALCIUM CARBONATE, COLOR ADDED, TRISODIUM PHOSPHATE, ZINC AND IRON BISULFATE, NUTRITION VITAMIN C SOURCE (ASCORBATE), A B VITAMIN (B12), ARTIFICIAL FLAVOR, VITAMIN B₆ (PYRIDOXINE HYDROCHLORIDE), VITAMIN B₁₂ (CYANOCOBALAMIN), VITAMIN B₁₂ MONONITRATE, VITAMIN A (PALMITATE), A B VITAMIN, FOLIC ACID, VITAMIN B₆, VITAMIN D, WHEAT STARCH, VITAMIN E (MIXED TOCOPHEROLS), SODIUM TO FRESHEN FRESHNESS.

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Exchange 1/2 cup
Nutrition information based on the Exchange Lists for Meal Planning
©2010 The American Dietetic Association, the American Nutrition Association

American Heart Association
Meets American Heart Association food criteria for saturated fat and cholesterol for healthy people over age 2.
With many factors that affect heart disease, diet is not the only factor and cholesterol may reduce the risk of this disease.

Look of the Label

In addition to providing information, the label also provides consumers with a prior idea about the contents of the package. The label is one of the first things a consumer will see, basically an invitation for them to purchase your product. Labels with a smart combination of color, fonts and finish are more appealing, offering an eye-catching appeal to consumers.

Label Design

- **Form:** This is the part where you can be creative with a product label. A label should reflect your company ideals and, although, sometimes more is better, less can be best when it comes to label design. Try to use no more than two fonts on a label, but do use different font sizes to add variety. When deciding on colors, try to select a few key colors that will complement the product and tie into your overall brand. Try to have an even balance of content and white space. A cluttered label can be overwhelming and drown out the information you really want customers to see.

- **Usability/Practicality:** While a flashy label may lure the eye to a product, if it is not user-friendly, consumers probably won't waste their time with it. Make sure the label is easy to read and information is easy to find.

Summary

Logos and labels work together to accomplish a similar goal – promoting your brand. However, while a logo serves as a symbolic visual identifier for your company, a label is used to provide information about a product or service offered by your company.



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The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Bringing the University to You!

The Cooperative Extension Service is the largest, most successful informal educational organization in the world. It is a nationwide system funded and guided by a partnership of federal, state, and local governments that delivers information to help people help themselves through the land-grant university system.

Extension carries out programs in the broad categories of agriculture, natural resources and environment; home economics; 4-H and other youth; and community resource development. Extension staff members live and work among the people they serve to help stimulate and educate Americans to plan ahead and cope with their problems.

Some characteristics of Cooperative Extension are:

- The federal, state, and local governments cooperatively share in its financial support and program direction.
- It is administered by the land-grant university as designated by the state legislature through an Extension director.
- Extension programs are nonpolitical, objective, and based on factual information.
- It provides practical, problem-oriented education for people of all ages. It is designated to take the knowledge of the university to those persons who do not or cannot participate in the formal classroom instruction of the university.
- It utilizes research from university, government, and other sources to help people make their own decisions.
- More than a million volunteers help multiply the impact of the Extension professional staff.
- It dispenses no funds to the public.
- It is not a regulatory agency, but it does inform people of regulations and of their options in meeting them.
- Local programs are developed and carried out in full recognition of national problems and goals.
- The Extension staff educates people through personal contacts, meetings, demonstrations, and the mass media.
- Extension has the built-in flexibility to adjust its programs and subject matter to meet new needs. Activities shift from year to year as citizen groups and Extension workers close to the problems advise changes.