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Grocery Profits Vary

While some shoppers run from store to store in hopes of trimming a few pennies from the grocery bill, there is a growing price similarity among chain stores. While the average markup on all items in a store is 22 percent, the industry profit margin reportedly is lowest on basics such as sugar, flour, coffee, butter, milk and soap. It is higher on items that will spoil such as fresh produce, meat and frozen foods and also on items that don't move off shelves as quickly as staples.

There is a good reason why nonfood items account for about 25 cents of the average dollar spent at the supermarket. Profits are higher on such items and consumers seem to like the convenience of one-step shopping.

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Don't Judge an Orange by its Orange

(0:25)

If you have hesitated to buy summer oranges because they appear green and unripe, do not worry. As Valencia oranges hang on the tree during warm summer month, their orange color turns greenish. This is called regreening and occurs because warm ground temperatures return chlorophyll to the skins, but they are ripe. Many of these oranges are grown in the west where some state laws prohibit adding dye to the skins of fresh citrus so they are marketed in some areas as summer greens.

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Hearing Aid Requirements

(0:10)

New legislation states that only people who have had a medical examination to determine hearing loss can be sold a hearing aid. Extension Home Management Specialist Edna Jordahl says buyers over 18 years of age can waive the examination requirement.

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