Higher food prices predicted

UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NJ – Food inflation, including the impact of the severe drought in the Midwest this year, will cost a family of four $351.12 more in food spending in 2013 than in 2012 — approximately $6.75 a week, according to The Food Institute.

Food-at-home spending will increase about $4 a week, and away-from-home spending by about $2.50. These figures are only slightly more than the 2.5 to 3.5 percent increase projected by the Agriculture Department for all of this year. The cost is calculated by the trade association using USDA’s latest food price projections for 2013.