Security Policies and Procedures for FSIS Laboratories/Select Agent Rule Implementation

Patrick C. McCaskey
Assistant Deputy Administrator
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service



Overview of FSIS Laboratories

- 3 Regulatory Laboratories
- Microbial Outbreaks and Special Projects Lab
- 150,000 samples per year
- 700,000 analyses
- Micro, Residues, Pathology





Security Policies and Procedures for Laboratories/Select Agent Rule Implementation



Recent Legislation/Policies

- USA Patriot Act
- Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002
- Possession, Use and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins (CDC)
- Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002, Possession, Use and Transfer of Biological Agents and Toxins (APHIS)



Recent Legislation/Policies (cont.)

- Biosecurity Requirements for BSL-3 Pathogens and Facilities (USDA Dept Manual 9610-1)
- Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories, Edition 4, CDC



The FSIS approach...



FSIS has a leg up...



All FSIS Labs are Accredited to ISO Standard 17025



ISO Standard 17025

- International Organization for Standardization
- "Gold Standard" for testing laboratories
- Internationally developed/accepted
- Specific requirements
- Quality system
- 32 lab-wide SOPs
- 600 work instructions
- 800 forms



ISO Standard 17025

- Say what you do
- Do what you say
- Prove it



ISO Accreditation/ Select Agent Rule Implementation

- Seek advice from experts
- Identify what needs to be done
- Agree on how things need to be done



ISO Accreditation/ Select Agent Rule Implementation

- Divide and conquer
- Assign responsibilities
- Agree on deliverables
- Set timeframes
- Don't re-invent the wheel
- Plagiarize the work of others



FSIS Activities

- Join the Laboratory Response Network (LRN)
- Create food component of LRN
- Due Diligence Checklist enhancements
- Training
- Method validation efforts



FSIS Activities (continued)

- Security plans
- Assessments of facilities







New Tamper-Evident Tape



FSIS Activities (continued)

- Continuity of Operations Plans
- Enhance surge capacity
- Construction of BSL-3 laboratory



Other activities

- eLEXNET (electronic Laboratory Exchange Network)
- eCAM (electronic Compilation of Analytical Methods)
- LabDir (Laboratory Directory)

