



FSIS Constituent Update

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Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety

Under Secretary Murano Accepts Position at Texas A&M

USDA Undersecretary for Food Safety Dr. Elsa A. Murano has accepted the position of Vice Chancellor of Agriculture for the Texas A&M University System, Dean of the College of Agriculture at Texas A&M University-College Station and Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Murano submitted her resignation to President Bush, effective December 3, 2004.

“It has been an incredible privilege and an honor to serve this President and my fellow Americans as the USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety,” Dr. Murano said. “I can leave Washington knowing that we have made a significant difference in improving public health and am confident that our science-based policies will continue to drive foodborne illnesses down even further.”

“I am extremely excited to be going back home to Texas and to once again be part of the Texas A&M family. I am very much looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead, and to working with the faculty, staff, students, and many stakeholders within Texas, to ensure that our research, teaching, and extension programs in the agricultural and life sciences are second to none, in total fulfillment of the university’s mission as a land-grant university.”

“As the Undersecretary for Food Safety, her experience and dedication to the scientific process have contributed greatly to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and those qualities will serve her well in her new responsibilities,” said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman.

Dr. Murano, a native of Havana, Cuba, is the first Hispanic American to have served as Under Secretary for Food Safety at USDA. She will also be the first Hispanic American, and first woman, to serve in her new position at Texas A&M University.

Export Requirement Updates

The [Library of Export Requirements](#) has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following countries:

Australia

Barbados

Canada

Oman

Russia

Taiwan

Complete information is available online at:
www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/explib.htm



Codex Coordinating Committee Report Now Available

The 8th Session of Codex Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific, Apia, Samoa (CCNASWP) was held October 19-22. The report on this meeting is available at: www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/Delegate_Report_8NASWP/. The meeting was attended by 11 member countries: Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and the United States. The session was preceded by a workshop on October 18 for national Codex committees and contact points, and another workshop was held on October 21 by the Chair of the Codex Committee on Food Import/Export Inspection and Certification Systems on traceability/product tracing.

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) to Hold Public Meetings

The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) will hold public meetings on Nov. 16-17, 2004. NACMPI will divide into three subcommittees on the first day to work on the issues discussed during the full committee meeting.

The full committee will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 16-17 at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King Street Alexandria, Va. 22314. Subcommittees will hold public meetings on Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Participants at the meeting will discuss and seek comments on the following topics:

The meeting agenda is available at www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/NACMPI. If you would like to submit comments on agenda topics please send them with the agency name and Docket #04-038N to: FSIS Docket Room, Docket #04-038N, USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C 20250-3700. Comments can also be submitted online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. For questions regarding submission of comments or technical information, contact Robert Tynan at (202) 690-6522 or by e-mail at robert.tynan@fsis.usda.gov.



The USDA Food Safety Mobile: Taking Food Safety Education on the Road

The USDA Food Safety Mobile travels continuously throughout the United States to educate consumers about the risks associated with mishandling food and steps they can take to reduce their risk of foodborne illness. The next dates and locations are as follows:

Nov 9, 2004
Defense Commissary Agency
(Fort Gordon, Ga.)

Nov 13, 2004
Females in Science and
Technology Conference
(Silver Spring, Md.)

Nov 15, 2004
Elementary School
(Roanoke, Va.)

Nov 20, 2004
Baltimore's Thanksgiving Day
Parade (Baltimore, Md.)

Codex Task Force Report Now Available

The Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force for Fruit and Vegetable Juices and Nectars consisting of 103 individuals representing 19 countries, one international intergovernmental organization, and three non-governmental observer organizations met October 11-15 in Fortaleza, Brazil. The U.S. delegation was led by Martin Stutsman of FDA.

Agreement was reached on all of the remaining provisions of the proposed Draft Codex Standard for Fruit Juices and Nectars and its Annexes. The endorsement issues were addressed by making modifications to the text and/or additional response to the referring committee as appropriate. The full report on this meeting is available at: www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Delegate_Report_4TFJ/

Nominations Deadline Extended for NACMCF

The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) nomination for membership deadline has been extended. Nominations and resumes must be received by Dec. 4, 2004, and should be sent to Karen Thomas, Advisory Committee Specialist, USDA, FSIS, Room 333, Aerospace Center, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250. Nominations are being sought for scientists with expertise in epidemiology, food technology, microbiology, risk assessment, infectious diseases and biostatistics and other related sciences. Nominees may be currently employed by state and federal governments, industry, academia or other scientific pursuits.

The NACMCF, established in 1988, provides scientific advice on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply. The committee serves the following departments: Agriculture (Food Safety and Inspection Service), Health and Human Services (Food and Drug Administration), Commerce (National Marine Fisheries Service) and Defense (Veterinary Service Activity).

To Submit Comments or Questions, Contact the Editor at:

fsisupdate@fsis.usda.gov (202) 720-9113

THIS WEEK'S HOT WEB LINKS

Codex Alimentarius Meetings

[www.fsis.usda.gov/
regulations/Public_Meetings/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/Public_Meetings/)

Microbiology

[www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/
microbiology/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/microbiology/)

Food Safety Education for Kids and Teens

[www.fsis.usda.gov/
Food_Safety_Education/
For_Kids_&_Teens/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Safety_Education/For_Kids_&_Teens/)

