



FSIS Constituent Update

Volume 5, Issue 22

June 4, 2004

Protecting the Public Health by Significantly Reducing Foodborne Hazards from Meat, Poultry and Egg Products

Questions and Answers Now Available for Updated BSE Procedures

FSIS issued an updated notice, 28-04, outlining the protocol for sample collection for cattle condemned during anti-mortem inspection for BSE by agency personnel. These procedures supercede FSIS notice 18-03, dated May 27, 2003, which expired on June 1.

As a follow-up FSIS issued notice 29-04 to address issues, regarding ante-mortem condemned cattle. The following issues are addressed:

1. Expectations regarding the Animal and Plant Health Inspection (APHIS) arrangements with establishments to test condemned cattle at a central location;
2. Questions that the Public Health Veterinarians (PHV) should ask the establishment management at the awareness meeting or at the on-going weekly meeting, to understand the establishment's identification and control procedures better for dead cattle, non-ambulatory disabled cattle and condemned ambulatory cattle;
3. Why FSIS notice 28-04 stated that FSIS would not collect brain samples from cattle condemned on ante-mortem inspection that the establishment elects to have treated pursuant to 9 CFR 309.13(b).;
4. A corrected form number for reimbursement associated with FSIS sample collections (BSE Sampling Tracking Sheet);

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Export Requirement Updates

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

Belize

Costa Rica

Cuba

El Salvador

Guatemala

Indonesia

Mexico

Trinidad

Complete information can be found at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/explib.htm>

Q & A for Updated BSE Procedures *con't.*

5. Whether or not cattle have to be presented for ante-mortem inspection in order to be subject to sample collection;
6. If the PHV is responsible for determining whether the sample is of acceptable quality, (i.e., whether autolysis has not occurred), before submitting a sample to the laboratory;
7. PHV and rabies vaccinations; and
8. A revised list of the laboratories where PHVs are to send samples.

The complete questions and answers are available on FSIS' Web site, www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISNotices/29-04.htm

The complete notice, 28-04, regarding FSIS sample collection from cattle condemned during antemortem inspection for the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance program is available on FSIS' Web site, www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISNotices/28-04.pdf

Upcoming Codex Meeting

The 27th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission will take place at the International Conference Center in Geneva, Switzerland from June 28-July 3, 2004. The U.S. Codex Office will hold a public meeting in preparation for the session on Tuesday, June 15, 2004, in Room 107A Jamie Whitten Building. This meeting will provide draft U.S. positions regarding items on the provisional agenda and opportunities for public comment.

Items on the agenda include procedural matters related to the Codex Procedural Manual, preliminary and final adoption of Codex Standards and related texts, and program and budgetary matters. Other agenda items include the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of Codex, the Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex, and the relations between Codex and other International Organizations.

The agenda items and more information for the Geneva, Switzerland meeting can be found at: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/codex/codex27_en.htm

To Contact the Constituent Update Editor

Crystal Straughn

crystal.straughn@fsis.usda.gov

(202) 720-9113

THIS WEEK'S HOT WEB LINKS

Regulations, Directives and Notices

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/
regulations_policies/
regulations_directives_notices](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_policies/regulations_directives_notices)

Food Safety Educator

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/
News_Events/
food_safety_educator/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_Events/food_safety_educator/)

Image and Video Library

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/
News_Events/
Image_Video_Libraries/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_Events/Image_Video_Libraries/)



Upcoming *E. coli* O157:H7 Workshops

From May through September 2004, FSIS will hold a series of teaching workshops around the nation for small and very small plants on new directives designed to strengthen *E. coli* O157:H7 prevention procedures. The workshops are scheduled on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. They will present the materials in the directives to operators of small and very small federally-inspected plants, state-inspected plants, federal and state inspection personnel, members of academia and other interested parties. The three FSIS Directives to be covered during the sessions are: Directive 10,010.1 Revision 1, Microbiological Testing Program and Other Verification Activities for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Raw Ground Beef Products and Raw Ground Beef Components and Beef Patty Components; Directive 6420.0, Verification of Procedures for Controlling Fecal Material, Ingesta, and Milk in Slaughter Operations; and Directive 5000.2, Review of Establishment Data by Inspection Program Personnel.

The workshops scheduled for June are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>
June 5	Hotel Sofitel 8555 Beverly Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90048 (310) 278-5444
June 12	Doubletree Hotel Coconut Grove 2649 South Bayshore Drive Miami, Florida (305) 858 – 2500
June 19	The St. Anthony 300 East Travis San Antonio, Texa (210) 227 – 4392
June 26	Renaissance Boulder Suites Hotel 500 Flatiron Blvd. Broomfield, CO (303) 464 - 8400

To pre-register for tomorrow's workshop in Los Angeles please call (202) 690-6520 or e-mail renee.ellis@fsis.usda.gov. You may also register for this workshop, and all future workshops by calling 1 (866) 553-3052 or via the FSIS Web site: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/

Featured Office of the Week



Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships and Outreach

The Strategic Initiatives Partnerships and Outreach (SIPO) Staff, part of the Office of Public Affairs, Education and Outreach, is dedicated to ensuring FSIS' strategic vision guides agency decisions while furthering FSIS' important food safety and public health goals. SIPO outreach efforts include the widely attended BSE workshops held across the country earlier this year. Following the success of these workshops a new series addressing *E.coli* O157:H7 are being held throughout the summer. SIPO is determined to strengthen Federal-State partnerships and also coordinates the work of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection.

Directive Issued: Recall of Meat and Poultry Products

In order to improve the effectiveness of recalls, FSIS has developed and issued revised Directive 8080.1, "Recall of Meat and Poultry Products." This directive, issued last week, will enhance the instructions and guidance to agency personnel responsible for verifying the effectiveness of a recall. To enhance speed and efficiency, the revised directive enables the collection of product distribution information at the plant to begin prior to microbiological testing results becoming final. The agency is also increasing the number of effectiveness checks it carries out during Class I recalls, those posing the greatest potential adverse health consequences, and in cases where products have been distributed to at-risk populations. The revised directive includes timeframes for reporting verification activities within FSIS and includes provisions for locating products at point of sale and ensuring the proper disposition of recalled product. For more information please visit: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/8000_Series-Compliance_Evaluation_&_Enforcement/index.asp

Notice: Verification of Implant Usage in Non-Ruminating Calves

FSIS issued a notice advising inspection program personnel that the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) discretionary enforcement guidelines referenced in FSIS Notice 23-04 are no longer in effect as of June 6, 2004. In addition, this notice provides instructions for inspection program personnel to use when they suspect the use of implants in non-ruminating calves.

Between April 5, 2004, to June 5, 2004, FDA determined that meat from non-ruminating calves that had been implanted but from which the drug had been withdrawn for 63 days was acceptable. FDA determined that meat from these veal calves would not pose a risk to human health if there was only short term consumption of the meat. This discretionary enforcement period has ended. As a result, after June 5, 2004, each non-ruminating calf presented for slaughter that bears an implant or bears evidence of implant use is to be condemned because FSIS cannot determine that the carcass is fit for food.

FDA has determined that implanted calves that have a functioning rumen may be passed for food. For more information on this notice please visit: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/FSIS_Notices_Index.htm



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

The USDA Food Safety Mobile is a 35-foot, recreational-style vehicle covered with a bold, eye-catching design and prominent food safety messages, including the four Fight BAC!® messages of the [Partnership for Food Safety Education](#).

June 5

Short North Gallery Hop
Columbus, Ohio

June 6

Columbus Zoo
Powell, Ohio

June 9

Elementary School
Bowie, Md.

June 11-13

Harborfest, Norfolk, Va.