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Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods to Hold Public Meetings

FSIS published a *Federal Register* notice on March 14, to announce that from March 21-24, the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods will hold public meetings. Agenda items include cooking parameters for seafood, consumer guidelines for the safe cooking of poultry products and the food safety importance and public health significance of *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis*.

The full committee will hold an open meeting on March 24, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

The subcommittee on Determination of Cooking Parameters for Safe Seafood for Consumers will hold open meetings on March 21-22, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The subcommittee on Consumer Guidelines for the Safe Cooking of Poultry Products will hold an open meeting on March 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The subcommittee on Assessment of the Food Safety Importance and Public Health Significance of *Mycobacterium Avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* will hold an open meeting on March 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The public meetings will be held at the Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, Va. 22203.

The agency is accepting comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by electronic mail at fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov. The notice is available at FSIS' Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2006-0002.htm>.

Inside this Issue

OFS to Hold Public Meeting	2
Correction Notice on Ante Mortem Inspection of Horses	2
Online IKE Preliminary Scenario	2
<i>E. coli</i> Positive Samples	3
Export Tip	3
USDA and HHS to Hold Public Meeting	4

Export Requirement Updates



The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following:

Mexico

Russia (Egg Products)

Complete information can be found at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Export_Information/index.asp.

Office of Food Safety to Hold Public Meeting on Codex Committee on General Principles

USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety will hold a public meeting to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 23rd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, from April 10 - 14, in Paris, France.

The public meeting will be held on March 21, from 1 to 4 p.m. in Room 107-A of the Jamie Lee Whitten Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

For further information about the public meeting, contact Jasmine Matthews, U.S. Codex Office, FSIS, at (202) 205-7760.

FSIS Issues Correction to Notice on Ante Mortem Inspection of Horses

FSIS published a *Federal Register* notice on March 14 titled, *Ante Mortem Inspection of Horses; Correction*.

This notice corrects the preamble to the interim final rule that was published in the *Federal Register* on February 8, amending its federal meat inspection regulations to provide a voluntary fee-for-service program under which official establishments that slaughter horses will be able to apply and pay for ante mortem inspection.

The notice is available on FSIS' Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/05-036C.htm>.

IKE Preliminary Scenario Available Online

FSIS has made preliminary Interactive Knowledge Exchange (IKE) scenario 03D-06, *Clarification of the Appeal Process for FSIS Personnel and Industry (example: Appeal Granted)*, available for comment through March 24.

Continued on page three

Hot Links

Food Emergency Response Plan Template - This template assists states with developing a food emergency response plan. Visit NASDA's Web site at <http://www2.nasda.org/NR/rdonlyres/2EC4F1B6-9732-4187-8A1D-7024C6818CBE/858/NASDAFoodPlanTemplate020906.pdf>.

Ask Karen - FSIS' virtual representative can answer your questions 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visit "Ask Karen" at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Safety_Education/Ask_Karen/index.asp#Question.

E-mail Subscription Service - The e-mail alert service provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. Visit http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&events/Email_Subscription/index.asp to sign up.

IKE Preliminary Scenario...

Continued from page two

This scenario is the first of two which will focus on the appeals process. The second preliminary IKE scenario covering this topic will be issued on March 27.

The scenario can be viewed on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FSIS_Employees/IKE_Comment/index.asp.

If you have questions or comments regarding the preliminary IKE scenario, then contact FSIS' Technical Service Center at (800) 233-3935 or by electronic mail at ike@fsis.usda.gov.

E. coli Positive Samples Reported

The third and fourth *E. coli* O157:H7 positive cases this year were reported from samples collected on March 1, in FSIS' microbiological sampling program. The third positive sample was collected in Washington, and the fourth positive sample was collected in Oregon.

This report brings to 283 the overall number of positive samples analyzed since the inception of the program. There have been 2,328 samples analyzed so far this year. Overall, 82,238 samples have been analyzed.

For more information about results from the sampling program, visit FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/2006_EColi_Positive_Results/index.asp.

Export Tip

Not all import requirements of a foreign country are reflected in FSIS' Export Library. In most cases, this is because the importing country accepts product from the United States accompanied by FSIS Form 9060-5 titled, *Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness*.

At an exporter's request, FSIS should provide Form 9060-5 to the exporter for these countries. The export certificate should contain only the basic information with no additional comments in the "Remarks" section.

If the exporter requests additional information on the certificate, FSIS employees should request a copy of the document stating that additional information is required. This document must be issued

Continued on page four

Export Tip ...

Continued from page three

by the government of the importing country and should be provided to FSIS' Office of International Affairs for further review.

Exporters are advised to work closely with their importers to ensure that when the product arrives at its international destination, it will be allowed entry. Exporters are also advised to check with USDA's agricultural attaché assigned to cover that country. The listing of agricultural attachés can be accessed at the following Web site: www.fas.usda.gov.

Visit FSIS' Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp to learn more about requirements for exporting products to other countries.

USDA and Health and Human Services to Hold Public Meeting to Address Codex Committee on Food Labeling

USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety and the Department of Health and Human Service's Food and Drug Administration will hold a public meeting to provide draft U.S. positions and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the 34th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labeling of the Codex Alimentarius Commission from May 1-5, in Ottawa, Canada.

The public meeting will be held on April 7, from 9 a.m. to noon, in room 1A-003 of the Harvey W. Wiley Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Md. 20740.

The agency is accepting comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by electronic mail at fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov.

The notice is available on FSIS' Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2006-0003.htm>.

**To submit
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questions, contact
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