

Availability of FSIS' Salmonella Testing Program's Results

FSIS now agrees with CSPI and NACMCF that release of the *Salmonella* data as sample results are obtained, rather than at the completion of a full sample set, could lead to the generation of data and information that could be used to sort out which, if any, of the many factors that could influence control of enteric pathogens on raw meat and poultry is actually doing so. FSIS also agrees that providing *Salmonella* data to industry as test results are obtained will allow commercial operations to assess their process control more effectively.

Tentative Determinations

In light of the foregoing, FSIS intends to release *Salmonella* testing results to individual establishments as they become available and before the conclusion of the collection and testing of full sample sets. Receiving this information in this way should allow establishments to more readily identify their process control deficiencies and assess the relative efficacy of their process controls.

The Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS), Laboratory Sample Data Management Staff (LSDMS), has developed a double-folded mechanism to forward *Salmonella* testing results to individual establishments as they become available. First, all *Salmonella* testing results will be available via FSIS' Laboratory Electronic Application for Results Notification (LEARN) system. By maneuvering through the components of this electronic program, an inspector can copy the applicable page and forward it to an establishment's management official as "notification" as instructed by the contents of the LEARN directive—10,200.1. In addition, an establishment can elect to provide OPHS, LSDMS, with an e-mail address, and the establishment's *Salmonella* testing results will be e-mailed to them as they are entered into its internal database. If an individual requests *Salmonella* testing data for an establishment, FSIS intends to respond to the request in turn, generally providing the specific existent information requested. Once a sample set is concluded, FSIS will post the results on its Web site on an aggregate basis (e.g., results will be identifiable only by the establishments' state and district locations). As sample sets continue to be collected and tested, FSIS will regularly update the content of the postings (e.g., by season or quarter) throughout the year. FSIS will not make the establishments' sample-by-

sample results available on its Web site because the Agency is not convinced of the value of posting this information. While the value of this information to the tested establishment is clear, the value to the general public is not. FSIS can see the value to the general public of more frequent posting of information about trends in *Salmonella* testing results than the current annual reports that the Agency issues.

Request for Comment

FSIS is seeking comment on its plan to modify its handling of *Salmonella* testing results. The Agency's final decision regarding the availability of *Salmonella* testing results will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv) go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done at Washington, DC, on April 7, 2003.
Dr. Garry L. McKee,
Administrator.
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Action of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on Thursday, May 15, 2003. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and will conclude at approximately 4 p.m. The meeting will be held at The Resort at the Mountain; 68010 East Fairway; Welches, Oregon; (503) 622-3101. The tentative agenda includes: (1) Report on status of 2002 and 2003 projects; (2) Election of chairperson; (3) Decision on overhead rate for 2004 projects; (4) Presentation of 2004 Projects; and (5) Public Forum.

The Public Forum is tentatively scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3-4 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits for the Public Forum. Written comments may be submitted prior to the May 15th meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Donna Short at the address given below. A field trip to visit Title II projects is scheduled for the next day, Friday, May 16, 2003 at the same location. The field trip will start at 8.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Donna Short; Sweet Home Ranger District, 3225 Highway 20; Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; (541) 367-9220.

Dated: April 10, 2003.

Dallas J. Emch,

Forest Supervisor.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Catron County Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Catron County Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Reserve, New Mexico, on May 1, 2003, from 10 a.m. MDST to 4 p.m. MDST. The purpose of the meeting is to review potential projects and adopt operating