

# BSE - A Challenge that Brings all Partners in the Farm-to-Table Chain Closer Together

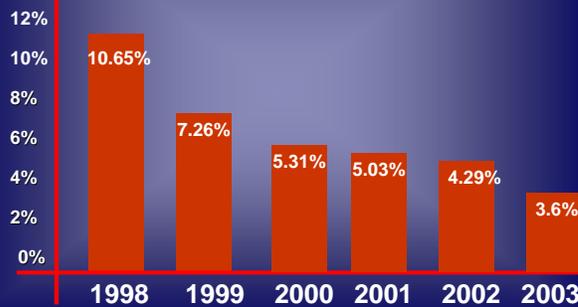


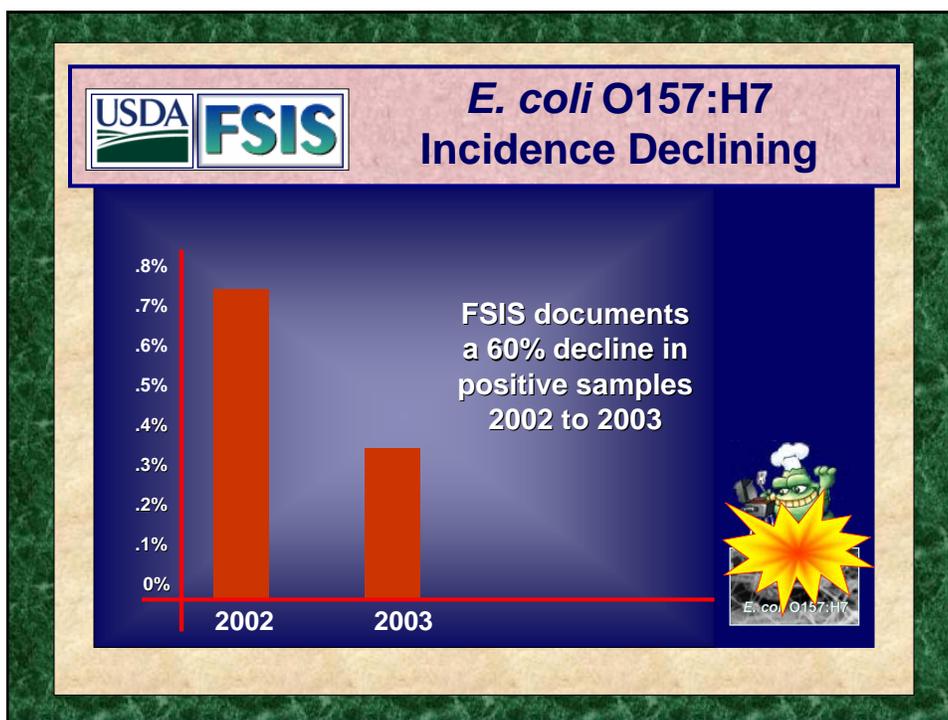
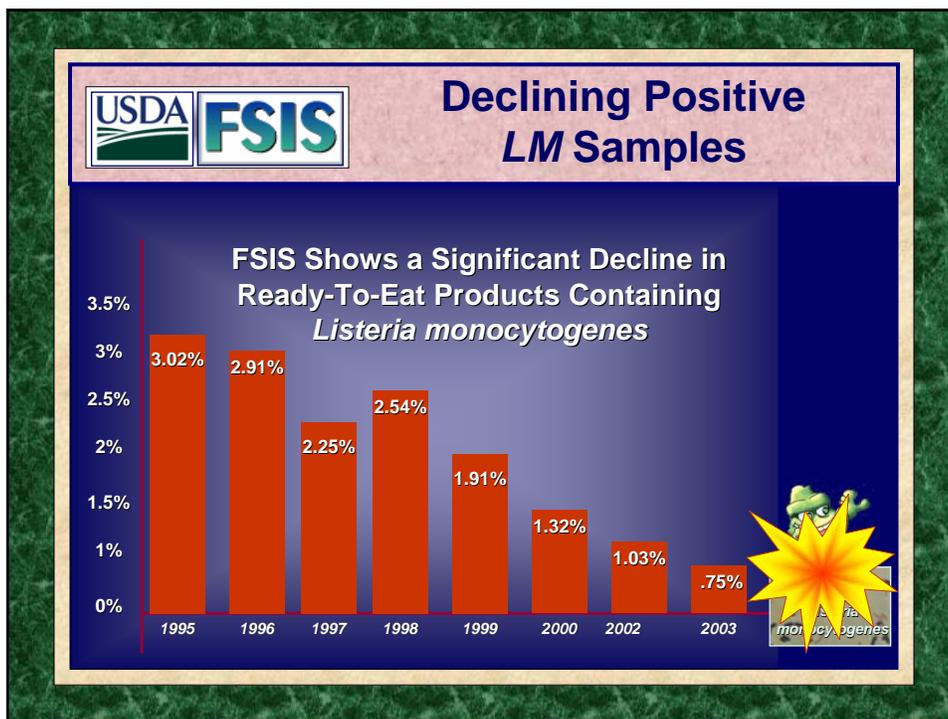
Dr. Garry McKee  
Administrator  
Food Safety and Inspection Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

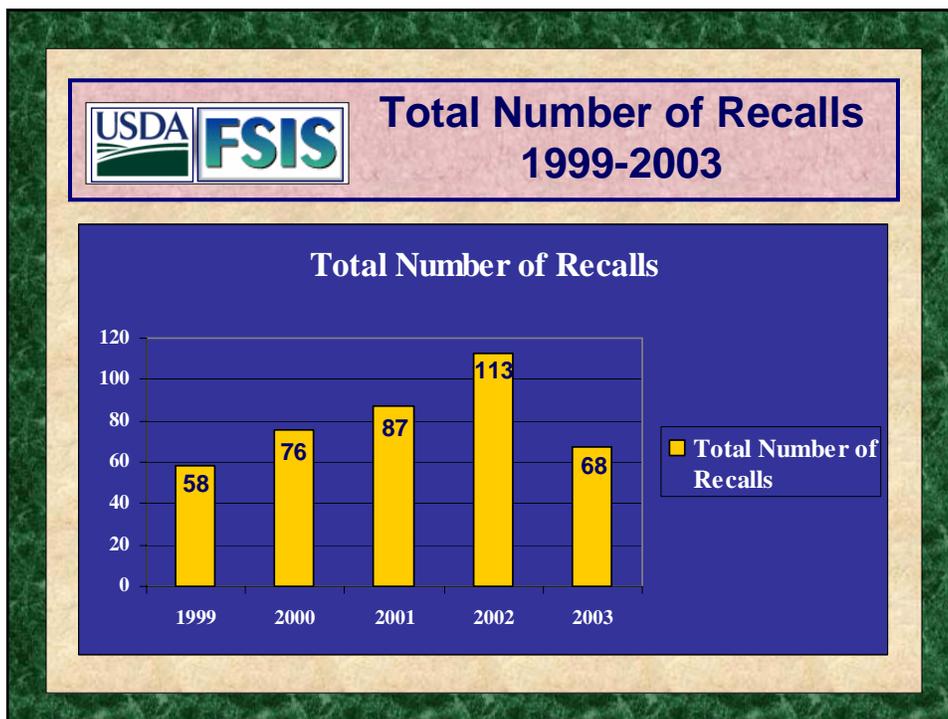


## Salmonella Incidence Declining

Salmonella rates have fallen by 66% over the past six years.







**The "Gold Standard"**

- ◆ HACCP is the gold standard by which we apply to further improve food safety and public health.



- ◆ FSIS holds itself and industry accountable for knowing and operating effectively under HACCP. It is in our best interest to do so.

**USDA FSIS**

**Apply the “Gold Standard” everywhere along the chain.**



**Everyone in the farm-to-table continuum has a responsibility for ensuring safe food because improving public health benefits all of us.**

### Best Practices for Animal Production



- ◆ FSIS is working with livestock producers, researchers, and other stakeholders to develop a list of best management practices for animal production facilities to reduce pathogen levels before slaughter.
  
- ◆ In September 2003, FSIS held a public symposium to lay a foundation for developing guidelines that can be used by feedlot operators to reduce the pathogen load. These guidelines should become available in 2004.



**Overcoming the BSE challenge will close the gap between all links.**



**FSIS has been working closely with APHIS, FDA, States, industry, and consumers to ensure our BSE prevention and response measures are effective.**

 **USDA's BSE Policies**

- ◆ Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announces a series of new measures to further protect the food supply against BSE.
- ◆ USDA immediately bans all non-ambulatory disabled cattle from entering the human food supply.

**December 30, 2003**



**[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)**



# FSIS' BSE Policies

FSIS publishes a notice announcing that inspectors are no longer marking cattle tested for BSE as "inspected and passed" until confirmation is received that the cattle have, in fact, tested negative for BSE.

## Test and Hold Notice



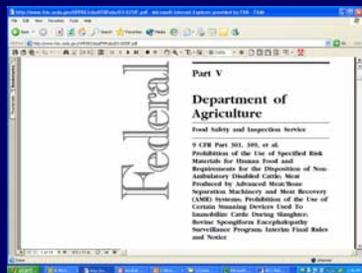
Effective January 12, 2004

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



# FSIS' BSE Policies

## SRM Rule



Effective January 12, 2004

In an interim final rule on specified risk material (SRM), FSIS declares that skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, vertebral column, spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia of cattle 30 months of age or older and the small intestines of all cattle are prohibited in the human food supply.

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



## FSIS' BSE Policies

### Specified Risk Material

◆ **FSIS' Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs) determine the age of cattle before they are slaughtered by reviewing documentation such as:**

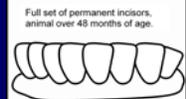
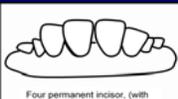
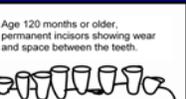
- ❖ Birth certificates;
- ❖ Cattle passports; or
- ❖ Some other form of identification



## FSIS' BSE Policies

◆ **If VMOs find significant reasons for questioning the validity of documentation, then the age of cattle will be verified through dental examinations.**

**The dentition depicted here represents cattle 30 months of age or older.**

 <p>First set permanent incisors</p> <p>Erupted third permanent incisor, top of tooth above gum line, animal 30 months of age.</p>	 <p>Age 72 months, medial incisors showing wear and leveled tops.</p>	 <p>Full set of permanent incisors, animal over 48 months of age.</p>
 <p>Four permanent incisor, (with top corners of the second set above the gum line), animal 30 months of age or older.</p>	 <p>Erupting fourth permanent incisor.</p> <p>Erupted third permanent incisor (with top corners of the tooth above the gum line), animal 30 months of age or older.</p>	 <p>Age 120 months or older, permanent incisors showing wear and space between the teeth.</p>



## FSIS' BSE Policies

### AMR Rule



Effective January 12, 2004

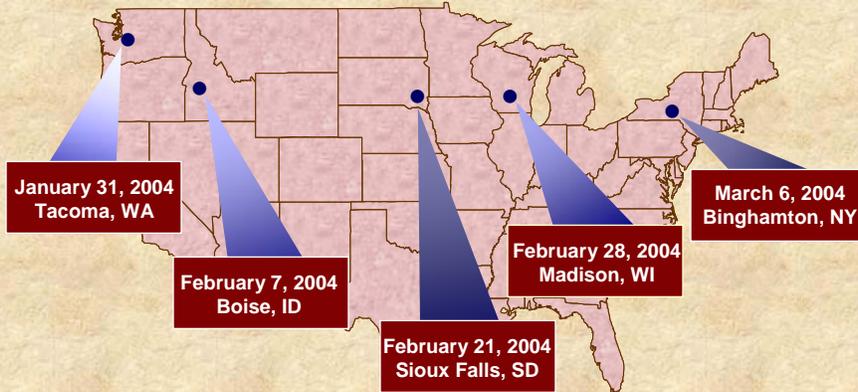
In a new interim final rule on advanced meat recovery (AMR), FSIS expands a prohibition to include dorsal root ganglia, clusters of nerve cells connected to the spinal cord along the vertebral column, in addition to spinal cord tissue. Vertebral column and skull in cattle 30 months and older cannot be used for AMR.

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



## FSIS' BSE Policies

### FSIS' Teaching Workshops on the New AMR Rule



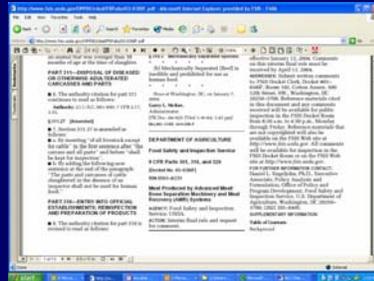




# FSIS' BSE Policies

In an interim final rule, FSIS bans the practice of air-injection stunning to ensure that portions of the brain are not dislocated into the tissues of the carcass.

## Air-Injection Stunning Rule



Effective January 12, 2004

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

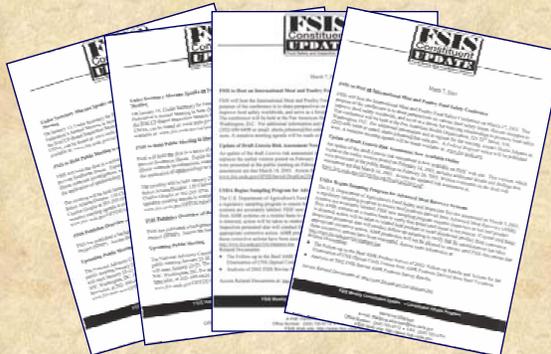
Reaching Out To Everyone



## Communication

### FSIS Constituent Update

A weekly wrap up of key agency information.



[www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/subscribe.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/subscribe.asp)

**The Bush Administration and the USDA are committed to protecting public health and improving the U.S. food safety system through sound science-based measures.**



**By working together, we will meet emerging food safety challenges**

