



# Progress on Non-O157 STEC

**STEC - Addressing the Challenges,  
Moving Forward With Solutions**

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# Policy Development

- Ensuring that the laboratory methodology issues are resolved
- Assessing the magnitude of the problem
- Determining circumstances in which non-O157 STECs would be an adulterant
- Informing stakeholders about the FSIS determination that selected non-O157 STECs are adulterants
- Implementing the policy



# Laboratory Methodology Issues

- **Validation**
  - **Ensure that laboratory methodology is reliably capable of identifying the presence of both O157 and selected non-O157 STECs of interest**
    - **Procedures for both ready-to-eat and not-ready-to-eat beef only, at this time**



# Assessing Magnitude

- Issue public notification to stakeholders to announce a start date for dual analysis of all raw beef verification samples for both O157 and selected non-O157 STECs
  - Recommend usual test-and-hold by establishments
    - Confirmed positive O157 STEC samples will be screened for selected non-O157 STECs
      - » Production lots not held from commerce positive for O157 STEC will either be recalled or seized/detained
    - Screen negative O157 STEC samples will be screened for selected non-O157 STECs
      - » At this time, production lots not held from commerce will not be recalled, seized, or detained
- Assess data over a limited timeframe sufficient to ascertain the general likelihood of presence of selected non-O157 STECs



# Circumstances for Adulteration

- **Based on the evidence that we develop from our testing, as well as other available evidence, we will decide whether to declare selected non-O157 STECs to be adulterants**
  - **Define the applicable products from the slaughter/dressing and further processing operations**



# Informing Stakeholders of the Determination

- **If we decide to declare selected non-O157 STECs as adulterants, issue a Federal Register Notice, in the form of an interpretive rule, that establishes the basis for this determination**



# Implementing the Selected Non-O157 STECs Policy

- **If we establish selected non-O157 STECs as adulterants, establish an effective date for which the policy will initiate**
  - **Ensure that the date is sufficient to address seamless implementation for both domestic and imported product**
  - **Issue compliance guidelines to the regulated industry**
  - **Issue policy implementation instructions to FSIS inspection program personnel**
  - **Conduct training of FSIS inspection program personnel**
  - **Conduct outreach to the regulated industry**
- **Implement the policy on a specific date**



**Questions?**



