



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Volume 9, Issue 8
February 29, 2008

FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

Agency Extends Comment Period for National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection Public Meeting

The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) held a public meeting on February 5 and 6 to address the planned public health-based slaughter inspection system for young chickens, and how a similar approach could be used for inspection in processing and other slaughter establishments.

FSIS is extending the comment period to March 24, continuing its efforts to encourage input from employees, consumers, industry, and other stakeholders.

Individuals may submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov or by e-mail at fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov.

To view the *Federal Register* notice about the NACMPI public meeting and retrieve supplementary information, visit FSIS' Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Past_Events/index.asp.

Interim Actions to Verify Inspection and Surveillance at Federally Inspected Establishments

The final report of the USDA's investigation will provide valuable information to determine what, if any, actions are needed to strengthen or enhance our inspection system and policies.

Pending the conclusion of the investigation, USDA will implement a series of interim actions to verify and thoroughly analyze humane handling activities in all federally inspected establishments.

The agency will issue a notice to FSIS inspection personnel to reinforce the work methods for conducting humane handling

Continued on page two



Inside this Issue

Q&A's for Directive 6100.4 2

Export Requirement Updates



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

Japan

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

March 12 Regulatory Web Seminar Offered for Small and Very Small Plants

FSIS will hold a regulatory Web seminar on March 12, which will provide descriptions of new technologies that small and very small plants can use to control pathogens such as *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat meat and poultry products.

The seminar will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. EST and from 6 to 7 p.m. EST. To register by phone, call (800) 336-3747 or e-mail questions to netmeetingseminars@fsis.usda.gov.

Interim Actions ...

Continued from page one

verification activities at all levels and to ensure the greatest utility of the Humane Activities Tracking System (HATS) program.

There are nine specific HATS humane handling categories: adequate measures for inclement weather, truck unloading, water availability (and feed, if applicable), handling during ante-mortem inspection, handling of suspect and disabled livestock, electric prod/alternative object use, observations for slips and falls, stunning effectiveness and checking for conscious animals on the rail prior to processing.

FSIS will focus surveillance and inspection activities at establishments where older or potentially distressed animals are slaughtered, such as facilities that handle dairy or veal cattle. Prioritization is essential to ensure the optimal use of resources to ensure humane handling and food safety

For more information visit www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_022908_01/index.asp.

Questions and Answers Offered for Directive 6100.4 - Verification Instructions Related to Specified Risk Materials

FSIS published questions and answers for Directive 6100.4 titled *Verification Instructions Related to Specified Risk Materials* on February 28.

This directive provides instructions to inspection program personnel on how to verify that establishments that slaughter cattle and establishments that process the carcasses or parts of cattle are complying with final regulations that prescribe requirements for the removal, segregation, and disposition of specified risk materials (SRMs).

The directive consolidates and updates provisions from FSIS Notices related to SRMs and provides instructions to verify compliance with the parts of the SRM final rule that are associated with non-ambulatory cattle that are in FSIS Directive 6100.1, *Ante Mortem Inspection of Livestock*.

Questions and answers for this directive communicate further clarification to instructions for Agency personnel in carrying out their functions.

Visit www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/6000_Series-Slaughter_Inspection/index.asp for more information.