



United States  
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# FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

## Food Defense Webcasts from Puerto Rico

FSIS and the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez (UPRM) signed a cooperative agreement this year to promote food safety and public health throughout the Western hemisphere.

UPRM will host a Webcast on December 9, 2005, to address food defense topics and concerns that affect the U.S. meat, poultry, and egg products supply as well as the import industry.

Viewers from across the country can log in to [www.uprm.edu](http://www.uprm.edu) and watch a live interactive classroom Webcast of UPRM officials instructing Puerto Rico's FSIS inspectors, small and very small establishment owners, and industry representatives.

The Webcast will take place December 9, from 8 a.m to noon on <http://www.uprm.edu/>

[agricultura/jiaa/](http://agricultura/jiaa/). This Webcast is a result of an April 2005 announcement by Secretary Mike Johanns for meat, poultry and egg plants to adopt model food security plans and undergo training on how to strengthen security measures and prevent potential acts of intentional contamination.

The food security plans were created to guide the development and implementation of food security plans for meat, poultry and egg processing facilities, import establishments and identification warehouses.

Tools such as the model food security plans, FSIS' Industry Self-Assessment Checklist for Food Security and FSIS Directive 5420.1 Revision 1, Food Security Verification Procedures, are addressed during the half-

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## Export Requirement Updates



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

**Canada**

**Romania**

**Russia**

Complete information can be found at: [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Export\\_Information/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/).

## ***Puerto Rico Webcasts...***

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day meetings and will also be addressed in the December Webcast. Registration information and materials on the upcoming Webcasts may be found at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Meetings_&_Events/). This Webcast is part of FSIS' continuous

diligence to ensure a reduction in the incidence of foodborne illness associated with meat, poultry and egg products. For more information, contact Autumn Canaday of the Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships, and Outreach staff at (202) 690-6408.

## **Food Safety Conference Slated for Denver**

FSIS, in conjunction with the non-profit public health organization, NSF International, announced a joint sponsorship of a food safety education conference on reaching at-risk audiences. The conference will be held September 27-29, 2006, at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver, Colo.

Titled "Reaching At-Risk Audiences and Today's Other Food Safety Challenges," the conference will provide educators, communicators, medical and public health professionals and food industry representatives with information, research and insights into reducing foodborne illness in the general and at-risk populations.

At-risk populations include older

adults, young children, pregnant woman and their unborn children, organ transplant recipients and others with immunocompromised conditions.

In addition to addressing the specific food safety needs of at-risk populations, the conference will also benefit those who work to educate other groups such as healthy adults and young children.

Information at the conference will be provided in plenary sessions, panel discussions, poster presentations and exhibits.

To submit abstracts or for further information, visit FSIS' Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/denver2006/>.

## **USDA to Hold Ag Forum in February**

USDA will hold the 82<sup>nd</sup> Agricultural Outlook Forum, February 16 and 17, 2006, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington.

The theme is "Prospering in Rural America," and the program will highlight the economic development of the rural United States.

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## **Food Safety Demonstration**

On November 15, FSIS will sponsor a food safety demonstration at the Capitol Area Food Bank in Washington, D.C. Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Richard Raymond is expected to demonstrate how to safely prepare and cook Thanksgiving dinner, and to discuss important food safety considerations with volunteer groups working with the Capitol Area Food Bank. Dr. Raymond will be joined by noted Washington, D.C. Chef Terrell Danley of Crème Café. USDA's four basic food safety messages: *Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill*, will be highlighted.

## **Ag Forum...**

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In addition, there will be a broad range of sessions, including: shifting trade patterns; Chinese agriculture; homeland security; the African Growth & Opportunity Act; bio-fuel production and new energy forms in rural areas; community-supported agriculture; and feedback from the 2007 Farm Bill Listening

Sessions. Secretary Mike Johanns and other top experts in agriculture will be among the more than 130 speakers.

Find full program and registration details at [www.usda.gov/oce/forum](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum) or call toll free, (877) 572-6043. Forum speeches can be downloaded from the site above after February 17, 2006.

## **November NACMPI Meeting Reminder**

A public meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection will be held November 15 and 16. At the meeting, the Agency will present and seek input on matters it will address in moving to a more risk-based approach to inspection as well as using data to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of this approach.

Subcommittees will also meet to discuss issues covering the full committee session.

The meetings will be held

in the conference room at the south end of the USDA cafeteria located in the South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. The full committee will meet November 15 and 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and subcommittees will meet November 15 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Information about the meeting is available on FSIS' Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/05-031N.htm>.