



United States  
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# FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

## Regional Trainers Preparing for Outreach Role to Assist Small and Very Small Plants

FSIS' Center for Learning regional trainers gathered on May 31, in College Station, Tex., to prepare for their role in conducting educational seminars to support the agency's small and very small plant outreach initiative.

The purpose of these outreach sessions is to review basic regulatory principles with small and very small plant owners and operators, providing them with information to enhance the design and implementation of their food safety systems.

The first of these outreach sessions will be conducted in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2006. The one to two hour sessions will cover an overview of FSIS' Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point and Rules of Practice regulations.

Look for more information about the regulatory walk through sessions on the small and very small plant outreach page on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Small\\_Very\\_Small\\_Plant\\_Outreach/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Small_Very_Small_Plant_Outreach/index.asp).

## FSIS Posts Consumer Guide for Food Safety During Severe Storms and Hurricanes

FSIS issued a news release on June 6, to announce the availability of a comprehensive collection of useful tips and answers to food safety questions for Americans living in hurricane-prone states.

The guide titled, *A Consumer's Guide to Food Safety: Severe*

*Storms and Hurricanes*, provides specific food safety recommendations on what to do before, during and after tropical storms and hurricanes.

The guidelines also include recommendations about what to do with food stored in refrigerators and freezers.

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## Export Requirement Updates



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

**Cuba**

**Egypt**

**Mexico**

**Romania**

**South Africa**

**Ukraine**

**Vietnam**

Complete information can be found at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_&\\_policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Export_Information/index.asp).

## Consumer Guide ...

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The news release is available on FSIS' Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_060606\\_01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_060606_01/index.asp).

To view the consumer's guide for recommendations on what

to do during severe storms and hurricanes, visit [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Severe\\_Storms\\_and\\_Hurricanes\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Severe_Storms_and_Hurricanes_Guide.pdf).

## Office of Food Safety to Hold Public Meeting

FSIS issued a news release and published a *Federal Register* notice on June 6, to announce that USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety will hold a public meeting on June 15.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, from July 3-7, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The public meeting will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., in Room 107-A

of the Jamie L. Whitten Building, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250.

The agency is accepting comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by electronic mail at [fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov).

The notice is available on FSIS' Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2006-0016.htm>.

## Export Tip of the Week

FSIS inspectors signing export certificates should only sign original copies of the export certificates required by the importing country. This helps to minimize any concern or delay by the importing country over the validity of the export certificate. In some cases, product is detained pending receipt of an original copy.

Exporters should provide sufficient notification of a

requirement for additional export certificates. Inspectors should provide original copies of the document prior to the time the product is certified.

Visit FSIS' Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp) to learn more about requirements for exporting products to other countries.