



# Next Steps:

## Public Health Based Slaughter Inspection

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# 1 - Rulemaking

- Unlike processing, rulemaking is necessary at slaughter due to existing regulatory barriers to inspection activity:
  - Existing regulatory restrictions
    - Several inspection systems (traditional, SIS--stream-lined, NELS--new line speed) with non-food safety inspection focus
  - Petitions related to science-based enhancements for reconditioning contaminated birds and for chilling birds
  - Ineffective enforcement consequences for existing generic *E. coli* criteria



# Current Thinking - Rulemaking

- Developing a proposed rule for poultry, informed by HIMP, expected to publish Spring '08:
  - Industry sorting prior to inspection
  - Inspection focus on food safety hazards (e.g., septicemic or toxemic carcasses, fecal material) and animal disease
  - New criteria for on-line reprocessing and carcass chilling
  - Microbiological process control pre- and post-evisceration/chilling of carcasses (e.g., criteria for generic *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Campylobacter*)
  - Enhanced off-line verification activity
  - Demonstrating predicted public health gain through inspection changes and enhanced industry performance



## 2 - Stakeholder Input on the Draft Risk Assessment and Related Activities

- Host a public meeting on the public health based poultry slaughter risk assessment in early Fall '07
  - Discuss ways to better predict potential adverse events using inspection data
  - Further discuss FSIS plans to further close the attribution gap associated with raw poultry products



## 3 – Pursue a *Salmonella* Initiative Project in a Limited Number of Select Plants

- Obtain and respond to on-going industry microbial data in non-HIMP plants by Fall '07 (e.g., *Salmonella*, generic *E. coli*, and *Campylobacter*) -- FSIS could add an inspector to the line; no change in inspection activity
  - Handle through the New Technology waiver process
  - Randomly conduct unannounced FSIS microbial testing when a full FSIS *Salmonella* set is not underway
  - Obtain industry pathogen isolates for subtyping and submittal to VetNet and PulseNet
  - Set performance criteria for maintaining status in the Initiative
  - Ensure all bargaining obligations are met before implementation



# 4 – Pursue Microbial Testing Enhancements for HIMP Plants

- Similar to the *Salmonella* Initiative Project, by Winter '07, obtain and respond to on-going industry microbial data in HIMP poultry plants (e.g., *Salmonella*, generic *E. coli*, and *Campylobacter*)
  - Randomly conduct unannounced FSIS microbial testing when a full FSIS *Salmonella* set is not underway
  - Obtain industry pathogen isolates for subtyping and submittal to VetNet and PulseNet
  - Further develop significance of serotype/subtype in determining which inspection activities to increase focus
  - Set performance criteria for maintaining status in HIMP
  - Ensure all bargaining obligations are met before implementation



# 5 – Assess New Points for Microbial Sampling

- In CY08, take steps to share with stakeholders a plan to supplement testing at rehang and post-chill with testing of one or more poultry carcass parts
  - Consider design of future baselines and performance standards/guideline
  - Continue to find ways to close the attribution gap associated with FSIS regulated products
- Focus on ground product microbial control



## 6 – Share and Discuss Outcomes of Next Steps with Stakeholders

- Keep the dialog open and on-going with stakeholders
- Focus on public health gains from planned and implemented inspection changes





**Thank you**