

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

Update on Data Acquisition to Anticipate Foodborne Hazards

Purpose

This updates a November 2004 Issue Paper on data sharing. FSIS proposed sharing data among industry, academia and the Agency. This sharing would facilitate:

- Identifying hazards and implementing effective programs to ensure food safety; and
- Allocating resources to verify food safety system control in plants based on risk.

The Committee recommended that FSIS explore ways that industry, academia, consumers, and other stakeholders can transfer data to FSIS. Considerations include:

- Incentives for participation;
- Administration of a data depository;
- Responsiveness to FSIS data needs; and
- Data quality.

The Committee also recommended a pilot data-sharing project that was:

- Non-threatening, and
- Addressed an issue of interest to FSIS such as the use of indicator bacteria to assess process control or effectiveness of equipment disinfection protocols.

Discussion

In response to the November 2004 NACMPI recommendations:

- FSIS has identified and is studying the data depository established to address FDA and FAO issues by the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (University of Maryland) as a possible model.
- FSIS gave a presentation providing examples of how data sharing can be used to develop policies at a Food Products Association (FPA) symposium in March 2005. The focus was on risk-based verification programs for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and *Salmonella*. One example of data sharing benefits to industry was offered. This referred to poultry establishments that have consistently low *Salmonella* prevalence in HACCP sets. Information on how these plants control *Salmonella* could be used to develop outreach for other establishments, assist in the development of risk-based verification, and help

define validated food safety systems. Participants who attended the FPA meeting supported the concept of data sharing and recommended that a pilot project be initiated so that there is a “success story.”

- A team of FSIS personnel are designing a pilot data-sharing project with a beef processor to evaluate the use of indicator organism counts to monitor the effectiveness of process control. There have also been preliminary discussions between FSIS and a poultry trade group about a similar pilot project.

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