

**National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection  
November 2005**

**Plenary Response to Question #5**

**Issue: *Risk-Based Inspection***

**1. If the Agency were to form an on-going working group to look into a risk-based inspection system (RBIS) then what recommendations would the Committee have on:**

- a. Who should compose the group? (What is the recommended team of consumer, industry, academia, inspectional organizations?)**
- b. Should the group be a subcommittee of NACMPI?**
- c. What should be the recommended size of such a group?**
- d. How frequently should they meet?**
- e. Where should they meet?**
- f. Who would be Chairperson? FSIS or a third-party facilitator?**

The co-chairs facilitated the discussion based on the two areas of the RBIS – the inspection criteria and the data. The members offered several options as to what type of group should facilitate addressing RBIS. The option of selecting a third party to facilitate this effort emerged as the preferred approach.

If the third-party suggestion is pursued then this undertaking needs to occur in two phases.

Phase 1:

A third-party will be selected to address these issues. The third party could be the National Academy of Sciences, a university consortium, or other appropriate consulting group. The selected organization needs to be unbiased and charged with seeking out information from all stakeholders via a series of public meetings, and other approaches, e.g., surveys, plant visits, focus groups. The Agency and an NACMPI subcommittee need to further define the charge and provide oversight of the third party. The third party would provide a report on the findings, recommendations and implementation strategies.

Other suggestions that emerged from the discussion:

- All stakeholders such as industry, consumers, academia, food safety as well as data, risk and legal experts, FSIS and other federal and state agencies such as Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and inspectors must be involved in the process.
- Academic research, government research and public health research need to be reviewed.

- FSIS must be a resource for this effort.
- The third-party report would address all of the data issues in a RBIS, including sources of the data, data quality, data management and the use of technology for assimilation and analyses of accrued data.

#### Role of NACMPI

- The NACMPI subcommittee representing all stakeholder groups would work with FSIS to define the scope of the third-party report and this proposal would be open to public comment.
- The NACMPI subcommittee and FSIS will identify the timeline for completion of the report and frequency of meetings and progress reports.

#### Phase 2:

NACMPI will review the findings and recommendations of the third-party report and provide guidance to FSIS on next steps.