

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

**Sub-Committee Number 2**

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

This subcommittee was charged with addressing a three-part question.

**3. What data would be appropriate in designing and implementing RBIS?**

The subcommittee agreed that the data needs can not be identified outside the development of the RBIS. The design of the RBIS will define the data needs.

**a. How should the Agency obtain the data?**

1) The Agency needs to consult with the relevant experts in order to identify from within the universe of possible data (including public health data), the specific data needed for a risk-based inspection system that would improve public health.

2) Once the necessary data is identified through the process set out in #1, the Agency then needs to determine if any of the data that it already collects falls within the identified data needs. The Agency should consider:

- Are there ways to make the data collected by in-plant inspectors more specific?
- Are there ways to correlate the various data sets that already exist?

3) The Agency should work with the industry to determine what data is needed, what data is already available, and ways to collect and share the data. Proper assessment should be done to ensure the data is accurate, consistent and reliable.

4) Other sources of data including state/local agencies, research institutions, academia, other federal agencies, and data collected by food safety agencies in other countries should be taken into account.

**b. Is the Committee aware if the type of data the establishments or their customers use to identify emerging problems in an operation? How can FSIS get access to this data if it does not presently have it?**

The sub-committee is not familiar with the data used by establishments and their customers to identify emerging food-safety problems. The subcommittee assumes that the third-party report would identify this data. Based on the report recommendations we would urge the Agency to communicate directly with industry representatives and state agencies to acquire about this data. The Agency, state agencies, and industry should collaborate on identifying data needs (data gaps) and best methods for collecting and analyzing the data.

**c. If industry data is used, how does FSIS ensure data quality?**

How to ensure the quality of the data will vary depending on the type of data that is at issue. The Agency can begin by looking at how it ensures the quality of the industry data that it currently reviews and can consider the recommendations in the third party report that address data quality.

The Subcommittee feels the additional aspects of data need to be addressed at a later date and additional background information should be provided by the agency.