

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

Briefing on February 23-24, 2006 Meeting Advances in Post-Harvest Interventions to Reduce *Salmonella* in Poultry

Purpose

This briefing paper is presented to the Committee regarding the public meeting, “Advances in Post-Harvest Interventions to Reduce *Salmonella* in Poultry” that the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) held on February 23-24, 2006, in Atlanta, GA.

Background

This most recent public meeting was a follow-up to the Pre-Harvest public meeting held in August 2005. It was organized to acknowledge the Agency’s growing concern with the persistent upward trend of positive *Salmonella* sample sets in the broiler industry and to present and discuss research and practical experiences that may reduce *Salmonella* across all classes of raw products.

Discussion

Presenters from FSIS discussed data concerning the presence of *Salmonella* in raw product classes, particularly within the broiler class, as well as concerns and validated controls regarding poultry slaughter. Several presenters from industry, academia, and USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) provided experiences including validated studies on process controls as well as research regarding best management practices and interventions to address *Salmonella*.

In addition, the new policy initiatives recently published in Federal Register Notice, Docket No. 04-026N, *Salmonella* Verification Sample Result Reporting: Agency Policy and Use in Public Health Protection were presented. Eleven policy actions have been identified as a means for the Agency to address the possible contribution that raw meat and poultry make to human illness regarding *Salmonella*. In order to better protect public health and reduce exposure of the public to *Salmonella*, FSIS is committed to redirecting its *Salmonella* Verification Sampling Program. As a critical public health strategy, it is the Agency’s intention to have *Salmonella* sample set results at or below 50% of the performance standard for guidelines in 90% of all establishments across all classes of raw products by July 2007.

A compact disc that includes the meeting presentations as well as the Federal Register Notice has been sent out to interested parties. Updated editions will follow.

The Federal Register Notice, Docket No. 04-026N can be accessed at:

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/04-026N.pdf>.

PowerPoint presentations from the meeting can be accessed at:

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Presentations_PostHarvest_022306/index.asp.

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