

**National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection
October 12-13, 2006**

**Strategic Implementation Plan for Enhancing Outreach to
Small and Very Small Plants**

Purpose

This briefing paper is an update for the Committee on the status of the Strategic Implementation Plan for Enhancing Outreach to Small and Very Small Plants.

Discussion

FSIS presented the plan to the Committee in May 2006. Subcommittee number 2 reviewed the plan in detail, and recommended that the Agency move forward with the plan. FSIS has put the plan into action. Following are highlights of the accomplishments from February 2006 to September 2006.

- Established a group at the Technical Service Center to respond to technical questions from small and very small plants (toll free number 1-800-233-3935 or email techcenter@fsis.usda.gov).
- Issued guidance in plain language on the appeals process to help small and very small plant owners and operators understand how to appeal an inspection decision.
- Initiated the Regulatory Education Sessions that bring industry and inspection personnel together to hear a common message about the regulations. FSIS announces these sessions through the *Constituent Update* and on the FSIS web site. The sessions started in June on a pilot basis. By the end of September, 16 sessions were completed. Average attendance is 35 participants, with 60% from industry and 40% inspectors. Feedback shows that 86% indicate that the sessions met participant expectations and 94% said they would recommend the sessions to others.
- Started EIAO visits to small and very small plants to explain the purpose and process for conducting Food Safety Assessments, and to offer resources to plant owners and operators to help them be prepared for the assessments.
- Shared information with small and very small plant owners and operators on how to contact USDA's Rural Development Agency regarding low interest loans for small businesses.

Strategic Implementation Plan for Enhancing Outreach to Small and Very Small Plants

- Collaborated with the Cooperative State Research Extension and Education Service (CSREES) to identify a proposal with Extension personnel from the northeast that focuses on research related to the needs of small and very small meat, poultry, and egg processors to explore training needs related to food safety.
- Collected feedback from users through a Federal Register Notice on the Technical Service Center.
- Collaborated with the International HACCP Alliance to begin the process of compiling and coordinating available technical resources, and to get input on small/very small plant needs.
- Obtained feedback on how to design food defense materials to meet the needs of small and very small plant owners and operators.
- Began developing a small/very small plant section for the FSIS web site.
- Started the process to submit articles to trade publications to deliver outreach messages and solicit feedback from user groups.

An updated version of the FSIS Strategic Implementation Plan to Enhance Outreach to Small and Very Small Plants is being developed showing all action items completed in FY 06, and adding more action items to be completed in FY 07.

FSIS continues to solicit input and feedback from NACMPI as we make progress on enhancing our outreach to small and very small plants.

Contact Persons

Karlease Kelly
Chief Training Officer
Office of Policy, Program and
Employee Development
Phone: 202-720-4104
E-mail: karlease.kelly@fsis.usda.gov

Bobby Palesano
Deputy Executive Associate
Office of Policy, Program and
Employee Development
Phone: 202-205-0194
E-mail: bobby.palesano@fsis.usda.gov