

# Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

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## NACMCF to Hold Meeting on National School Lunch Program Purchases

The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold a public meeting via teleconference on March 28 from 2 to 5 p.m. ET. Items on the agenda will include: assistance to the AMS with the Federal Purchase Ground Beef Program; *Staphylococcus aureus* and other criteria used in the ground beef purchase for the NSLP; and alternative screening methods for ground beef beyond those in the FSIS Microbiology Laboratory Guidebook and determining acceptable screening procedures.

FSIS will finalize the agenda on or before the meeting and post it on the FSIS website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/).

All documents related to the full committee meeting will be available at USDA-FSIS, Room 8-164, Patriots Plaza III, 355 E St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. Documents will also be available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Federal\\_Register\\_Notices/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp). To register or to provide public comment, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp at (202) 690-6620 or [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov).

### *NACMCF Seeks Nominations for Members*

Applications and nominations for membership are being sought from individuals with scientific expertise in the fields of epidemiology, food technology, microbiology (food, clinical, and predictive), risk assessment, infectious disease, biostatistics and other related sciences. Persons from the academia, industry,

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

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## Export Requirement Updates



The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following countries:

**Canada**

**Cuba**

**Hong Kong**

**Japan**

Complete information can be found at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp).

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## ...*NACMCF*

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consumer groups, State governments and the federal government, as well as all other interested persons with such expertise, are invited to submit nominations. Members who are not federal government employees will be appointed to serve as non-compensated special government employees (SGEs). SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct.

To receive consideration for serving on the NACMCF, nominees must submit a resume and USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise and a list of select publications. For submissions received that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be reviewed. USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 is available online at: <http://www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf>.

Nominations including a cover letter to the Secretary, and the nominee's typed resume or curriculum vitae and a completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 must be received by April 23, 2012. Self nominations are welcome.

Nomination packages can be mailed to: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250, Attn: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods.

For further information, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, at 202-690-6620 or [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov). To read the *Federal Register* notice, go to <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2012-0010.htm>.

## Updates on FSIS Testing for *E. coli*

Weekly updates for the agency's raw beef *E. coli* sampling program are posted to the FSIS website.

For comparative previous and current year results, go to [www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground\\_Beef\\_E.coli\\_Testing\\_Results/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground_Beef_E.coli_Testing_Results/index.asp).

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## FSIS Policy Updates

FSIS issues notices and directives to protect public health. The following policy updates were recently issued:

**Notice 21-12**, *Randomly Selecting Beef Trim to Be Collected Under the Beef Manufacturing Trimmings (Mt50) Sampling Program*

**Notice 22-12**, *Sampling of Raw Beef Product Intended for the National School Lunch Program*

**Notice 24-12**, *Importation of Live Cattle from Mexico into the United States for Immediate Slaughter*

**Notice 25-12**, *Pasteurized Egg Products Imported in Bulk Containers from Canada*

All notices and directives are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp).

## National Advisory Committee Discusses Proposed Rule on the Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection

FSIS hosted a Web conference meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) on March 23 to solicit comments and hear discussion on the "Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection Proposed Rule" that was published in the *Federal Register* on January 27. Eleven committee members participated in the meeting.

FSIS presented an overview of the proposed rule and then opened the meeting up to discussion. The comments and input from committee members will help inform the agency's decision making on the final rule.

Public comments on the meeting can be e-mailed to [NACMPI@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:NACMPI@fsis.usda.gov) or mailed to NACMPI, USDA, FSIS, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 1180, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250. All submissions must include the agency name and docket number FSIS-2012-0016.

Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or by mail to: USDA, FSIS, OPPD, RIMD, Docket Clearance Unit, Patriots Plaza III, Room 8-164, 355 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.



## New Podcasts

Tune in to podcasts on selecting, handling and preparing meat and poultry products to reduce the risk of foodborne illness. FSIS released these podcasts helpful to consumers.

### Food Safety Discovery Zone (English and Spanish) Safe Food Handling of Leftovers (Spanish)

Check out these podcast at [www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_&\\_events/Podcasts/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/Podcasts/index.asp). Spanish language consumer podcasts are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/En\\_Espanol/Podcasts\\_SP/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/Podcasts_SP/index.asp). Video-casts in American Sign Language are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_&\\_events/SignFSIS/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/SignFSIS/index.asp).

## Follow Us on Twitter

Find food safety information for at-risk people along with tips and resources to keep consumers and other interested groups informed of the latest agency news and events. Follow FSIS on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/USDAFoodSafety](http://www.twitter.com/USDAFoodSafety).

You can also receive alerts about recalls in your state and how to keep food safe during severe weather in your area by following FSIS' state Twitter feeds. A list of all FSIS state food safety alert Twitter feeds is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis\\_Recalls/Open\\_Federal\\_Cases/index.asp#Twitter](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fsis_Recalls/Open_Federal_Cases/index.asp#Twitter).

## Also Tweet En Español

The FSIS Spanish language Twitter feed keeps consumers and other interested communities informed of the latest agency news and events and provides useful food safety tips.

Follow FSIS' Spanish Twitter account at [www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafes\\_es](http://www.twitter.com/usdafoodsafes_es).

## Codex Public Meeting on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food

FSIS and the FDA are sponsoring a public meeting to receive public comments and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), which will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The public meeting will be held on April 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. ET in the Jamie L. Whitten Bldg., USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm. 107-A, Washington, D.C. 20250. Documents and agenda items related to the 20th Session of the CCRVDF will be accessible on the Codex website at [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org).

The following items will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Draft Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) for Veterinary Drugs;
- Revision of the Committee's Risk Analysis Principles;
- Proposed amendments to the Committee's terms of reference; and
- Risk management recommendations for the veterinary drugs for which no MRL has been recommended by the expert scientific committee because of human health concerns.

For more information or to submit written comments about the 20th Session of the CCRVDF, contact Kevin Greenlees at (240) 276-8214 or [kevin.greenlees@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:kevin.greenlees@fda.hhs.gov).

For more information about the public meeting, contact Kenneth Lowery at (202) 690-4042 or [kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov).

## Visit USDA's Blog

Every day, the USDA Blog shares something new about USDA's expansive mission. The blog provides a rich and diverse look at the work within the department, spanning the nation—and even the world—and highlights the breadth of USDA programs and the role they play in the lives of every American.

Go to <http://blogs.usda.gov/> and see what's happening within the agency and across the department. Check out Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Elisabeth Hagen's blog "Setting the Record Straight on Beef" at <http://blogs.usda.gov/2012/03/22/setting-the-record-straight-on-beef/>.