



Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

Deputy Secretary Merrigan Announces New Opportunities for Small Meat and Poultry Processors

Ohio First to Participate in USDA's Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan yesterday announced that Ohio will be the first state to participate in USDA's Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program, allowing small, state-inspected meat processors to ship their products across state lines. This action expands economic opportunities for America's small meat processors, strengthens state and local economies as well as increases consumer access to safe, locally produced food.

"This agreement allows a small processor in Ohio to sell products to neighbors in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Indiana and beyond," said Deputy Secretary Merrigan. "Expanding market opportunities for meat from local processors makes these small businesses more viable, while also ensuring that participating establishments have robust food safety systems in place to produce safe food for consumers."

Under the cooperative agreement, small, state-inspected businesses with 25 or fewer employees will be allowed to sell meat and poultry products across state lines. Meat and poultry products produced in selected establishments will be subject to the same regulatory sampling programs as those established in the Federal inspection program.

To view the press release in detail, go to www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=LATEST_RELEASES.



Inside this Issue

Food Defense Plan Survey	2
FSIS Resources	2
Updates on FSIS Testing for <i>E. coli</i>	2

Export Requirement Updates



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

Republic of Korea

Complete information can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp.

FSIS Constituent Update is prepared by the Congressional and Public Affairs Office.

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Food Defense Plan Survey Ends Today

FSIS is concluding its 7th annual Food Defense Plan Survey today, Aug. 10, 2012, to determine how many FSIS-regulated processing and slaughter establishments, as well as official import inspection establishments have voluntarily adopted a functional food defense plan.

FSIS established an agency performance goal for 2015 to have at least 90 percent of establishments with a functional plan. Results from the July 2011 survey indicated that approximately 75 percent of all plants have adopted plans. In addition, this year is the first year FSIS had the ability to conduct the survey through PHIS.

For guidance and documents related to food defense, go to www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Defense_&_Emergency_Response/index.asp. For questions and additional assistance, contact the Small Plant Help Desk at (877) FSIS-HELP, (877-374-7435). Any policy-related questions can also be addressed through the Policy Development Division at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> or (800) 233-3935.

FSIS Posts New Resources

The agency recently posted to its website, a table of newly approved substances determined to be safe and suitable by FDA and FSIS for use in meat, poultry and processed egg products.

The table, which is in excel format, is a quick reference to new substances highlighted in Directive 7120.1, Rev. 12, which published on July 5.

The directive is updated on a quarterly basis and includes information added since April 6. For questions about the directive go to the agency's question and answer forum *AskFSIS* at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com>.

To access the table and other related documents, visit www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations/RD_7120_1/index.asp.

Updates on FSIS Testing for *E. coli*

FSIS posts bi-weekly updates for the agency's raw ground beef *E. coli* sampling program. Included are testing results of raw ground beef component samples for *E. coli* O157:H7 and STECs from FSIS routine and follow-up sampling programs. Also featured is data for non-O157 STECs by each non-O157 STEC serogroup.

To review testing results, go to www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground_Beef_E.Coli_Testing_Results/index.asp.