



# Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

## USDA Holds Public Meeting for the 34th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

Volume 13, Issue 22  
June 3, 2011

The Office of Food Safety and the Food and Drug Administration will host a public meeting to receive public comments and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 34th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The public meeting will be held on June 16, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at USDA's Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 107-A, 1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C. To participate via teleconference, dial (888) 858-2144 and enter the passcode 6208658.

Documents and agenda items related to the 34th Session of the CAC will be accessible on the Codex website at [www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp). Individuals are invited to submit written comments electronically to [uscodex@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:uscodex@fsis.usda.gov). For more information, contact Barbara McNiff at (202) 690-4719 or [barbara.mcniff@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:barbara.mcniff@fsis.usda.gov).

### Get Answers at AskFSIS

AskFSIS is a web-based technology and policy question-and-answer forum on topics such as exporting, labeling, inspection, programs and procedures.

In addition, askFSIS offers Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds that link back to the Q&As. To view recently posted topics, visit <http://askfsis.custhelp.com/>.

#### Certified Calf Programs

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1362](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1362)



#### Inside this Issue

PHIS Update .....	2
NACMCF Public Meeting .....	2
FSIS <i>E. coli</i> Testing Update .....	2

## Export Requirement Updates



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

**Cuba**

**Japan**

**Russia**

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).

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

**Office of Public Affairs  
and Consumer Education**

*Acting Assistant Administrator*  
Lisa Wallenda Picard

**Executive Staff**  
Carol Blake, CPA Director  
Greg DiNapoli, Deputy Director

**Editor**  
Ndidi A. Mojay

**Assistant Editor**  
Alexandra Tarrant

**Editor-at-Large**  
Joan Lindenberger

## PHIS Update

FSIS Administrator Al Almanza today conducted a town hall meeting with employees to talk about the Public Health Information System (PHIS).

During the meeting, he discussed lessons learned and the valuable feedback he has received from employees since PHIS was implemented on April 11. Based on that feedback, he announced that the second phase of circuits would be delayed to make necessary improvements.

One of the main challenges, he said, is the uploading of important data and “FSIS is working around the clock to resolve this. For me, the timeline is not as important as getting the job done right.”

This delay in implementation for the second wave of circuits means that training will not occur during the month of July, but is expected to resume in August. More information about PHIS may be found at [www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS).

## NACMCF Subcommittee to Hold Public Meetings

A subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold public meetings from June 7-9.

The subcommittee on Control Strategies for Reducing Foodborne Norovirus Infections will discuss what controls can be used to reduce the transmission of foodborne Human Noroviruses (HuNoV). The NACMCF meetings will take place at the Aerospace Building, 901 D St., S.W., Room 369, Washington, D.C., on June 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; June 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and June 9, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

To attend, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp at (202) 690-6620 or [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov). All persons wishing to attend must RSVP in advance.

## 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).