

FSIS Policy Initiatives to Encourage Reduced *Salmonella* Positives in FSIS Regulatory Samples

Dr. P. Bennett

Veterinary Medical Officer

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POLICY PURPOSE

- To assist broiler industry in reversing the upward trend of high positive *Salmonella* sample sets
- To take industry-wide action now, but invite public comment
- To further assess process control for pathogens in all classes of raw products

ACTION 1

- FSIS will report back to establishments the results of each individual *Salmonella* test and not await the end of a sample set
 - FSIS expects establishments to assess the results and make adjustments to their food safety system

ACTION 2

- FSIS will post quarterly, rather than annually, nationwide *Salmonella* data by product class
 - More rapid aggregation of the data will allow more timely trend analysis

ACTION 3

- FSIS will collect swab samples from turkey carcasses and assess progress from the baseline performance level of 19.6% (up to 13 positives in 56 samples)
 - The ground turkey performance standard was the highest for all classes of raw product (49.9% -- up to 29 positives in 53 samples)

ACTION 4

- Establishment performance characterized in 3 categories to guide FSIS resources
 - Category I** - low exposure of the public to *Salmonella*
– best pathogen control
 - Category II** - elevated exposure of the public to *Salmonella* – intermediate pathogen control
 - Category III** – greatest exposure of the public to *Salmonella* – least pathogen control

ACTION 5

- FSIS will modify the scheduling frequency for sample sets
 - No longer expect one set per year
 - Good control may influence scheduling up to once every two years; poor performance may influence scheduling multiple sets annually.

ACTION 6

- FSIS will conduct **Food Safety Assessments (FSA)** in establishments that demonstrate poor process control for *Salmonella*, before sample set failure
 - Particular focus on sample sets that contain serotypes that are common causes of human illness

ACTION 7

- FSIS will issue a new **compliance guideline** on control of *Salmonella* during slaughter of broilers
 - Closely following the presentation of information from this public meeting

ACTION 8

- FSIS will pursue more timely mechanisms for obtaining serotype information for each sample
 - Establishments will be provided serotype information
 - FSIS will publish aggregate results at least annually

ACTION 9

- FSIS will pursue policies on sub-typing *Salmonella* and further assess utility of pulsed-field gel electrophoresis
 - Mechanisms for the timely sharing of this information with public health partners will be pursued

ACTION 10

- FSIS will conduct on-going baseline studies to ascertain continuous improvement in pathogen reduction (e.g., *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, as well as indicator organisms) in all classes of raw product
 - In addition to the profile of microorganisms present and their counts, the studies also will assess changes in serotypes and patterns of antibiotic resistance

ACTION 11

- FSIS will monitor the change in control from Categories II and III to Category I
 - FSIS is seeking comment on appropriate “incentives” for attaining best control for pathogens on raw product, industry-wide

CONCLUSIONS

- FSIS will first focus on industry-wide control of *Salmonella* in slaughter establishments
 - Concern about ground products

CONCLUSIONS

- FSIS is considering more steps to ensure increased control of *Salmonella*
 - *Negative incentive*: Publishing the names of establishments and their performance status within each category
 - *Positive Incentive*: Allowing establishments to increase slaughter volume based on control of *Salmonella*, other pathogens, and disease conditions

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

- FSIS actions go into effect immediately
- There will be an open comment period for the public to provide input to FSIS
 - FSIS will be assessing the progress of the regulated industry over time, and will adjust its current thinking as appropriate and with public input