

NACMPI Meeting - June 2, 2004
Standing Sub-Committee #3
Food Security

1. Should FSIS require plants to develop a food security plan?

RESPONSE:

During the June 2003 NACMPI meeting, the Subcommittee addressing the issue of increasing industry awareness of food security recommended that the Agency not mandate that plants have food security plans. This subcommittee still believes that plans should not be mandated.

Instead the subcommittee recommends that FSIS work with industry to create a food security partnership. Participation by industry in the program will be voluntary. The strategy is to provide incentives to industry to participate and achieve a target level of food security. The partnership would provide recognition for achieving the target level. The partnership, called the Partnership for Food Security, could be modeled after the Partnership for Food Safety Education. The partnership would establish goals and objectives along with an awareness campaign.

Both partners would commit to the following:

- Joint training on conducting self-assessments
- Plant assessments with industry conducting the assessment and FSIS providing vulnerability assessment information
- Ensure that mitigation strategies are taken, as appropriate
- Development of self-assessment guidelines
- Sharing of information and data
- Outreach
- Providing resources necessary to carry out the goals of the partnership

The subcommittee recommends that FSIS give appropriate consideration for the security of proprietary information resulting from the self-assessments.

The sub-committee recommends that the Office of Food Security and Emergency Preparedness establish a team of food security specialists to assist plants in conducting self-assessments upon request.

FSIS should consult with the parties involved in creating the Partnership for Food Safety Education to learn how to develop this partnership, and if the resources are available, proceed with it.

The subcommittee recommends that FSIS provide a report at the next NACMPI meeting on its progress.