

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

November 5, 2003

Sub-Committee # 2

Issue: Procedures for Conducting Inspection in Talmadge-Aiken Plants

Sub-Committee Chair: Mr. Michael Govro

Members

Dr. Catherine Logue

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1. *How would you define a role for Talmadge-Aiken in today's public health regulatory environment?*
2. *Under what conditions would Talmadge-Aiken be appropriate in this environment?*
3. *What measures of effectiveness should FSIS use to determine the value of a given Talmadge-Aiken arrangement?*

The Agency asked the sub-committee to look at this issue based on the FSIS decision to move to a Team Inspection Approach within the next two years. The committee decided to offer some ideas on all of these questions together because they are so interrelated.

- There is a role for T/A where it is most efficient.
- The current paradigm of only allowing cross utilization or T/A within a state should be discarded.
- Two different approaches were suggested by the sub-committee.

Two options:

- Mixed teams
- 2 separate teams

Recommendation: A single state could have both.

- Mixed teams:
 - Border plants/across state lines
 - Individual plant covered by State but Federal employees in area
 - Cross utilization concept
 - 100% reimbursement
 - Federal supervisor

Separate teams:

- No other Federal plants in the area
- Federal plant becomes part of “state team”
- T/A concept
- 50% funding
- State supervisor

Making decisions is dependent on the outcome of the new work assignment system and risk-based inspection.

The sub-committee considered a mixed team w/ 2 separate supervisors but rejected the idea because duplication was an issue.

Define efficiency –

- Maximize inspection time
- Minimize travel time
- People resources
- Time savings
- \$ - cost effective (cost-benefit for both State and Federal)

What outcomes?

- Optimal use of resources
- Meeting statutory and regulatory requirements
- Measurable results
- Risk-based allocation
- Support/allow small business start-up and growth opportunities