

USDA

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Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

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FSIS Provides Guidance for *Listeria* Sampling Programs in Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products

FSIS intends to announce in the *Federal Register*, changes it will make in its procedures for *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) product sampling programs in ready-to-eat meat and poultry products.

The agency intends to increase the number of product samples it collects under its routine Risk-based *Lm* (RLm) sampling program and its intensified verification testing protocol from 3 to 5 samples—per sampling unit. In addition, FSIS intends to announce that its laboratories will composite the five 25-g product samples from the RLm sampling program, which will increase the sample size of the analyzed test portion from 25 g to 125 g. Increasing the number of samples collected and compositing the samples will make the agency’s sampling procedures more consistent with international practices and conserve laboratory resources.

In addition, these changes will increase the potential that FSIS will find positive results and help keep contaminated product from reaching the marketplace, thereby improving public health.

FSIS’ Faces of Food Safety Introducing Des Moines District Office Supervisory Consumer Safety Inspector Michelle Cox

Growing up, all Michelle Cox could think about was being a teacher. She could envision herself in the classroom making a difference in young lives, which she assumed would have a lasting impact. She would become one of those teachers who students would remember forever.

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Japan

Mexico

People's Republic of China

Singapore

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

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...Faces of Food Safety

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Today, Cox is making a significant contribution as a teacher, but her students are not in the classroom; they are her colleagues within the Food Safety and Inspection Service's Office of Field Operations. Cox is a Supervisory Consumer Safety Inspector, or SCSI, a job that involves supervising and training inspectors. SCSIs such as Cox manage food inspectors, including those who examine meat and poultry in large slaughter plants. They represent management in labor issues, and they promote equal opportunity and safety principles and programs. They also perform a variety of food safety inspection activities. But it is the instruction part of the job that has most captured Cox's heart. "This is one of the most rewarding jobs I have ever had," she said. To read the full story, go to http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/faces_food_safety/index.asp.

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.

Food Safety Discovery Zone Event Schedule for September

Visit the USDA Food Safety Discovery Zone.

September 13 – Kids Day Farmers Market (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services campus), Baltimore, Md.

September 16 – Newark Community Day, Newark, Del.

September 19-20 – Berwyn Heights Elementary School (FSDZ/Food Safety Education Camp), Berwyn Heights, Md.

September 22 – DE Aerospace Education Foundation, Smyrna, Del. or Trucktoberfest (Tentative), RFK Stadium, Washington, D.C.

September 24-28 – Visits to elementary schools (Tentative)

For more information about the Food Safety Discovery Zone, visit www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Safety_Education/Food_Safety_Mobile/index.asp.