

SECTION 8. PLANNING THE 2002 FSIS DOMESTIC MONITORING PLAN AND EXPLORATORY PROJECTS, AND IMPORT MONITORING PLAN: ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS

The candidate environmental and processing contaminants of concern selected by members of the Surveillance Advisory Team (SAT) were as follows:

--Environmental Contaminants:

- X dioxins
- X heavy metals
- X mycotoxins

--Processing Contaminants:

- X nitrosamines
- X maillard reaction products (from charring)
- X compounds migrating from packaging
- X polyaromatic hydrocarbons
- X breakdown products of oils used in deep frying

Of these, two compound classes were identified by the Surveillance Advisory Team as meriting inclusion in the 2002 NRP. The first set of compounds was the dioxins. FSIS plans to conduct an Exploratory Project to survey dioxin compounds in each of the major domestic bovine, porcine, and poultry production classes (steers/heifers, market hogs, young chickens, and young turkeys), as well as in horses. This survey will begin in 2002, but may not be completed until 2003. Samples will be collected by FSIS inspectors, and shipped for analysis to the Red River Valley Agricultural Research Center of the Agricultural Research Service, in Fargo, ND. The goal of this survey is to collect information about dioxin in domestically produced meat and poultry in a statistically valid manner. Information gathered from the survey will help FSIS begin to understand factors that might contribute to dioxin levels in meat and poultry. The planned sample numbers are given in Table 8.1.

The second set of compounds was the heavy metals, particularly lead. Suggested projects included a baseline study for levels of heavy metals in meat and poultry, and projects to analyze for lead in raw meat products used in baby food, and in baby food containing vegetable root material. Nevertheless, heavy metals will not be included in the 2002 NRP, as FSIS does not have the resources necessary to implement a heavy metals survey at this time.

No processing contaminants have been designated for analysis this year.

Even if a contaminant is not scheduled for inclusion in the FSIS NRP, should a contamination incident occur during the year, FSIS can initiate residue sampling as part of an FSIS Emergency Response Project.

Table 8.1
Number of Samples/Product Class, Dioxins Survey
2001 FSIS NRP, Domestic Exploratory Project

PRODUCTION CLASS	NUMBER OF SAMPLES
Steers/heifers	136
Market hogs	136
Young chickens	144
Young turkeys	84
Horses	0
Total	500