



## FSIS Seeks Nominations to the National Advisory Committee for the Microbiological Criteria for Foods

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting nominations for membership on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF). There are 15 vacancies. Advisory Committee members serve a two-year term, renewable for two consecutive terms.

USDA is seeking nominees with scientific expertise in the fields of microbiology, epidemiology, food technology (food, clinical and predictive), toxicology, risk assessment, infectious disease, biostatistics and other related sciences. USDA is seeking nominations for NACMCF from persons in academia, industry, State government and the Federal Government, as well as all other interested persons with the required expertise. Please note that federally registered lobbyists cannot be considered for USDA advisory committee membership.

USDA is also seeking nominations for one individual affiliated with a consumer group to serve on the NACMCF. This member will serve as a representative member to provide a consumer viewpoint to the committee. This member will not be required to have a scientific background and will not be subject to a conflict of interest review.

Nominations for membership on the NACMCF must be addressed to the Secretary of USDA and accompanied by a cover letter addressing the nomination, a resume or curriculum vitae and a completed USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755, available online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-755>. A person may self-nominate or a nomination can be made on behalf of someone else. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise and a list of select publications, if available, that confirm the nominee's expertise for this work. For submissions that are more than five one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be reviewed.

Nomination packages should be sent via e-mail to [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov) or mailed to: Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250, Attn: FSIS\Office of Public Health Science\National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (Karen Thomas-Sharp).

For additional information, contact Ms. Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, at 202-690-6620 or [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov). To read the *Federal Register* Notice visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/federal-register/federal-register-notice>.

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# Update to the Microbiology Laboratory Guidebook

FSIS Laboratories have validated the testing of ready-to-eat (RTE) Siluriformes fish for *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. Additionally, the FSIS Laboratories validated a 1:4 enrichment broth to sample ratio (1 part sample in 3 parts enrichment broth) for the analysis of RTE products for the presence of *Salmonella*. The following MLG chapters have been revised: MLG 4.09, MLG 4C.07 and MLG 4 Appendix 2.03 for *Salmonella* analysis and MLG 8.10, MLG 8A.06 and MLG 8 Appendix 1.03 for *Listeria monocytogenes* analysis.

FSIS intends to begin using the updated methods on Jan. 2, 2017. To review the guidebook, please visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/science/laboratories-and-procedures/guidebooks-and-methods/microbiology-laboratory-guidebook>.

## Establishment Specific Datasets Now Available

The first two establishment specific datasets as announced in the *Federal Register* on July 14, 2016 (Docket No. FSIS-2014-0032) are now available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/data/fsis-datasets>. Sample datasets and data dictionaries were made available for comment on Oct. 7, 2016. The first two datasets are:

- Establishment Demographic Data, which supplements the existing MPI Directory
- Ready-to-Eat (RTE) Meat and Poultry Sampling Data

Additional details can be found at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/data/fsis-datasets>.

## Policy Updates

FSIS notices and directives on public health and regulatory issues are available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations>. The following policy updates were recently issued:

**FSIS Notice 87-16** - *Holidays in 2017*

**Notice 88-16** - *FSIS Continuing Education (Pilot) Program 2017 Spring Semester*

**Directive 8091.2** - *Procedures for the Hazard Identification Team*

**Docket No. FSIS-2014-0024** - *Revision of the Nutrition Facts Labels for Meat and Poultry Products and Updating Certain Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed (Advance Copy)*

**Docket No. FSIS-2016-0037** - *National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection-Nominations for Membership*

**Docket No. FSIS-2016-0040** - *Notice of Request To Renew an Approved Information Collection (Specified Risk Materials)*

FSIS Constituent Update is prepared by the Congressional and Public Affairs Staff Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

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## Export Requirement Updates

The Library of Export Requirements has been updated for the following countries:

French Polynesia  
Singapore

For a complete list of countries, visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products>.

## FSIS Seeking Vendor for New Transport Buffer (Neutralizing Buffered Peptone Water)

FSIS implemented the use of nBPW (Buffered Peptone Water with additional neutralizers) for poultry sample collection on July 1, 2016. The buffer is currently produced by the FSIS Field Service Laboratories. FSIS is seeking proposals from commercial manufacturers to produce nBPW for FSIS purchase. Details on the formula, requirements and submission guidelines can be found at [https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=5a16435f063caca635fd74d55d12942f&tab=core&\\_cview=1](https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=5a16435f063caca635fd74d55d12942f&tab=core&_cview=1).

The formula and preparation instructions are also posted on AskFSIS at [http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/2007](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2007).

## Comment Period Extended for Inhumane Handling of Livestock in Connection with Slaughter by Persons Not Employed by the Official Establishment

FSIS is extending the comment period for the *Federal Register* document "Inhumane Handling of Livestock in Connection with Slaughter by Persons Not Employed by the Official Establishment" (81 FR 74280, Oct. 26, 2016). The original deadline to submit comments was Nov. 25, 2016. FSIS will now accept comment submitted before Dec. 9, 2016. A stakeholder informed FSIS that the Federal eRulemaking Portal for submitting comments online states that comments are due on Jan. 24, 2017.

The *Federal Register* document designates Jan. 24, 2017 as the date that FSIS intends to implement the actions discussed in the document, unless the Agency receives comments that demonstrate a need to revise this date. FSIS is extending the comment period for the *Federal Register* document to allow persons who may have been confused by these inconsistencies additional time to submit comments. FSIS will correct the date on the Federal eRulemaking instructions.

The document rule is available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/federal-register/federal-register-notice>.

Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal, available at <http://www.regulations.gov>; Mail, including CD-ROMs: Send to Docket Room Manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Hand or courier-delivered submittals should be delivered to Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E Street SW, Room 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

### Food Recalls and Alerts

For information regarding recalls, please contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Staff at (202) 720-9113. You can also receive e-mail notifications when public health alerts and recalls are issued by registering at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>.

# FSIS Photos and Infographics Easily Accessible Online

FSIS has launched a Flickr account with a diverse spread of nearly 1,000 images and infographics that are both printable and user-friendly. The site provides the Agency's internal and external stakeholders with access to view and download visual food safety information displayed in different views, including photo stream, albums, favorites and groups. The items range from FSIS inspection photos to safe food preparation and thermometer usage graphics. The FSIS Flickr account can be accessed on the front page of [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov) or at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/usdagov/collections/72157625079142273/>.

## UPDATE:

## FSIS Testing for *E.coli*



FSIS posts biweekly updates of the Agency's raw ground beef *E. coli* sampling program, which includes testing results of raw ground beef component samples for *E. coli* O157:H7 and Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STECs) from FSIS routine and follow-up sampling programs. Data are also presented for non-O157 STECs by each non-O157 STEC serogroup.

Between June 4, 2012 and Nov. 27, 2016, FSIS laboratory services analyzed a total of 15,817 beef trim samples (13,555 domestic and 2,262 imported), 3,641 routine follow-up samples (3,527 domestic and 114 imported) and 327 non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. One-hundred seventy eight samples were found to be positive. 106 were domestic trim samples, six were imported trim samples, 62 were domestic follow-up samples and four were non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. To date, three samples have been positive for both O157:H7 and at least one non-O157 STEC strain and ten samples have been positive for two different non-O157 O-groups. To review testing results, visit the *E. coli* data tables at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/ec>.