DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS–2020–0026]

Food Safety: Consumer Outreach and Education Today and for the Future

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notification of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), is hosting a virtual public meeting with participation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Partnership for Food Safety Education. FSIS seeks to establish a comprehensive understanding of how consumers handle and prepare food today, by reviewing recent research and forthcoming research, so as to develop the most effective approach for consumer outreach and education in the future. Industry, consumer representatives, non-profits, food safety advocates working at state, county and local levels, and other interested individuals are invited to participate in the meeting and comment on the data and science that drive FSIS consumer education.

DATES: The virtual public meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. Submit comments on or before October 9, 2020.

ADDRESSES: The meeting is virtual and will be viewed via the web-ex link provided by email when you register for the meeting. Attendees must pre-register for the meeting. See the pre-registration instructions under “Registration and Meeting Materials.” FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments and questions on this Federal Register notice. Comments and questions may be submitted by one of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: This website provides commenters the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on the web page or to attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.


Hand–or Courier-Delivered Submittals: Deliver to 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6065, Washington, DC 20250–3700.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS–2020–0026. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to http://www.regulations.gov.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, call (202) 720–5627 to schedule a time to visit the FSIS Docket Room at 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6065, Washington, DC 20250–3700.


SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Background

FSIS has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary (7 CFR 2.18, 2.53), as specified in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601, et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451, et seq.) and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031, et seq.). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by verifying that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged.

Food poisoning, also referred to as foodborne illness, is a serious public health threat in the United States. The CDC estimates that millions of Americans become ill from foodborne illness every year, resulting in roughly 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths. Consumer education focused on safe food handling and preparation practices can help reduce food poisoning, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Consumer research is the backbone of FSIS’ educational outreach. FSIS uses research to assess whether its food safety messaging meets the needs of the consumer. This data-driven approach allows FSIS to refine its consumer outreach. FSIS’ Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education (OPACE) provides this outreach, as well as general information on food recalls, food inspection policies, food handling best practices, foodborne illnesses and food safety risks, to empower consumers to make safe decisions about handling, cooking, and storing their food.

In 2017, USDA embarked on a multi-year research project to study consumers’ knowledge about food safety, food handling and food preparation practices. FSIS will host a discussion at the coming public meeting to consider how the study findings provide insight into the agency’s public health education and communication activities.

FSIS will hold a virtual public meeting on October 6, 2020, with participation from CDC, FDA, and the Partnership for Food Safety Education, to discuss FSIS’ consumer education efforts over the years and how this multi-year research project has helped identify gaps in outreach to focus engagement where it is needed most. FSIS invites industry, consumer representatives, non-profits, food safety advocates working at state, county and local levels, and other interested individuals to this forum to discuss these efforts and how we all might be most effective in the future. An agenda will be published online before the public meeting. FSIS will finalize the agenda on or before the meeting dates and post it on the FSIS website at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/meetings.

Registration and Meeting Materials

There is no fee to register for the public meeting, but pre-registration is mandatory for participants attending. All attendees must register online at https://ems8.intellor.com/?do=register&t=1&p=831094.
Public Comments and Participation in Meetings

Oral Comments

Stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide oral comments during the public meeting. As mentioned above, stakeholders must notify FSIS during registration of their wish to speak at the meeting. Stakeholders who do not notify FSIS during registration of their wish to speak will not have the opportunity to comment on the day of the public meeting. Due to the anticipated high level of interest in the opportunity to make public comments and the limited time available to do so, FSIS will do its best to accommodate all persons who registered and requested to provide oral comments, and will limit all speakers to three minutes. FSIS encourages persons and groups who have similar interests to consolidate their information for presentation by a single representative.

Public Questions

During the meeting, FSIS will host a roundtable discussion with subject matter experts. Questions may be submitted in advance (by September 18, 2020) using the process described above in the ADDRESSES section.

Transcripts

As soon as the meeting transcripts are available they will be accessible on the FSIS website at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe. Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their accounts.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

No agency, officer, or employee of the USDA shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/paternal status, income derived from a public assistance program, or political beliefs, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person in the United States under any program or activity conducted by the USDA.

How To File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at http://www.oio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf, or write a letter signed by you or your authorized representative.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email: Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–9410. Fax: (202) 690–7442. Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720–2600 (voice and TDD).

Paul Kiecker, Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2020–18589 Filed 8–24–20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–0M–P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the South Dakota Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a briefing of the South Dakota Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (CDT), via teleconference. The purpose of the meeting is hearing from speakers on the Committee’s topic on maternal health disparities of Native American women.

DATES: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 from 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. (CDT).

ADDRESSES:


TDD: Dial Federal Relay Service 1–800–877–8339 and give the operator the above conference call number and conference ID.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mallory Trachtenberg, mtrachtenberg@usccr.gov, (202) 809–9618.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the public may listen to the discussion by dialing the following Conference Call Toll-Free Number: 1–800–367–2403; conference ID: 9800799. Please be advised that before being placed into the conference call, the operator will ask callers to provide their names, their organizational affiliations (if any), and an email address (if available) prior to placing callers into the conference room. Callers can expect to incur charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free phone number.

Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the discussion by first calling the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 and provide the FRS operator with Conference Call Toll-Free Number: 1–800–367–2403; conference ID: 9800799. Members of the public who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Unit at (202) 809–9618.

Records and documents discussed during the meeting will be available for public viewing as they become available at the FACA Link and clicking on the “Meeting Details” and “Documents” links. Records generated from this meeting may also be inspected and reproduced at the Midwestern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission’s website, www.usccr.gov, or to contact the Midwestern Regional Office at the above phone number, email address.