

Minutes of the National Advisory Committee
on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) Plenary Session
Wednesday, August 20, 2003

Hotel Monaco
700 F Street,, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dr. Merle Pierson, USDA, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, Chair opened the meeting at 8:30 AM, Wednesday, August 20. Both the Chair and the Vice-Chair, Dr. Robert Brackett, Food and Drug Administration/Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (FDA/CFSAN), Director of Food Safety and Security, made opening remarks.

Status Reports from the Subcommittee Chairs and Related Topics

Mr. Spencer Garrett, Chair of the Microbiological Performance Standards for Broilers (young chicken)/Ground Chicken Subcommittee, whose Subcommittee is serving a dual role in working on a charge to review FSIS protocols for microbiological baselines for raw ground beef components, mentioned this charge. He then turned the floor over to Mr. Loren Lange, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Public Health and Science, of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), for a briefing to the Full Committee on the FSIS baseline review charge.

Mr. Loren Lange presented an FSIS charge to the Full Committee requesting NACMCF review of proposed microbiological baseline studies of raw ground beef components. Mr. Lange explained the details of the four-point charge asking for NACMCF review and comment on FSIS microbiological baselines protocols for raw ground beef components, and provided background information on FSIS microbiological baseline work.

Mr. Garrett followed up with a report of progress made on draft Subcommittee comments on the FSIS raw ground beef components baselines and the intent of the Subcommittee to have a work product to the Full Committee for consideration for adoption by 8-22-03. He pointed out that the request for an adopted draft report was part of the charge. Mr. Garrett then talked about deferred discussions on the in-progress work on a performance standards document for broilers/ground chicken. He anticipated that this work would resume during this meeting after the baseline review document was completed.

Dr. Don Zink, Subcommittee Chair of Criteria for Refrigerated Shelf-life Based on Safety provided an interim report on work progress on a draft document that is nearing completion. No action was taken.

Dr. John Kvenberg, Subcommittee Chair of Scientific Criteria for Redefining Pasteurization provided background on the issue of "redefining pasteurization." He reported progress on a document covering alternative technologies for pasteurization and provided the general concepts being focused on in the Subcommittee work. No action was taken.

Public Comment

Mr. Tony Corbo, Public Citizen, commented on the work of the Scientific Criteria for Redefining Pasteurization Subcommittee and consumer group issues regarding the Farm Bill. He also exhibited a guacamole product that stopped using the term “cold pasteurization” in labeling to reflect high-pressure processing, due to consumer association of this term with irradiation.

Subcommittee Chair Comment

Dr. John Kvenberg, Subcommittee Chair of Scientific Criteria for Redefining Pasteurization resumed following public comment to request clarification from the Chair on question five of the Subcommittee charge: on “what biological hazards might be created as a consequence of pasteurization treatment?” Dr. Pierson confirmed that changes in microbial ecology and new hazards (due to the treatment) were the concern.

Close

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 AM, Wednesday August 20, 2003.

A list of NACMCF members in attendance and outside participants follows. Further meeting details are available in the meeting transcripts.

8-20-03 NACMCF Meeting Participants

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| Chair: | Dr. Merle Pierson |
| Vice-Chair: | Dr. Robert Brackett |
| NACMCF Members: | Dr. Gary Ades Dr. David Acheson Dr. Peggy Cook Dr. Catherine Donnelly Dr. Stephanie Doores Dr. Dan Engeljohn Mr. Spencer Garrett Dr. Lee-Ann Jaykus Dr. John Kvenberg Dr. Anna Lammerding Dr. John Luchansky Dr. Carol Maddox Dr. Roberta Morales Ms. Angela Ruple |

Ms. Jenny Scott
Dr. Skip Seward
Dr. John Sofos
Dr. Katie Swanson
Dr. R. Bruce Tompkin
Dr. Don Zink

NACMCF Executive Committee: Dr. Art Liang, CDC
Maj. Erik Topping, VSA
Dr. LeeAnne Jackson, FDA

FSIS Staff: Ms. Gerri Ransom
Ms. Karen Thomas
Dr. Walt Hill
Mr. Loren Lange

NMFS Staff: Ms. Emille Cole
Ms. Barbara Comstock
Dr. Al Rainosek

Outside Participant: Mr. Tony Corbo, Public Citizen