



Sonny Perdue Becomes Secretary of Agriculture

On April 25, 2017, Sonny Perdue, a former farmer, agribusinessman, veterinarian, state legislator, and governor of Georgia became the 31st United States Secretary of Agriculture.

Perdue's policies as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture will be guided by four principles which will inform his decisions. First, he will maximize the ability of the men and women of America's agriculture and agribusiness sector to create jobs, to produce and sell the foods and fiber that feed and clothe the world and to reap the earned rewards of their labor. Second, he will prioritize customer service every day for American taxpayers and consumers. They will expect and have every right to demand that their government conduct the people's business efficiently, effectively and with the utmost integrity. Third, as Americans expect a safe and secure food supply, USDA will continue to serve in the critical role of ensuring the food we put on the table to feed our families meets the strict safety standards we've established. Food security is a key component of national security because hunger and peace do not long coexist. And fourth, Perdue will always remember that America's agricultural bounty comes directly from the land. And today, those land resources sustain more than 320 million Americans and countless millions more around the globe.

For more information about Sonny Perdue, please visit <https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/our-secretary>.

FSIS Posts Guidance Memo About Proposed State Legislation

On April 18, 2017, FSIS issued guidance to state meat and poultry inspection (MPI) programs about legislation proposed in various states and affecting MPI programs' regulation and inspection of meat and poultry. The guidance includes examples taken from draft legislation FSIS has reviewed of proposed statutory provisions that could result in MPI programs no longer being considered "at least equal to" the federal inspection program.

The guidance memo may be found at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/5894330a-90d9-4316-a096-14b5ea431731/State-MPI-Legislation-Letter-041817.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>.

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Export Requirements Updates

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

- Costa Rica
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Mexico
- Republic of Congo
- Turkey

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

FSIS Posts Updated Quarterly Sampling Results

Updated sampling results for FSIS-regulated products are now available on the FSIS website. Quarterly, FSIS calculates prevalence, volume weighted percent positive or percent positive calculations for microbial pathogens in FSIS regulated products that are currently sampled through existing sampling projects using the prior 12 months of sampling data. Sampling results are available for raw beef, raw pork, raw chicken, raw turkey, processed eggs and ready-to-eat products. More information can be found at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/sampling-project-results/results>.

Food Safety Discovery Zone 2017 Tour Underway

The Food Safety Discovery Zone (FSDZ) completed an event in Georgia and is on its way to events in New Mexico and Nevada. On April 28 - 29, 2017, the FSDZ will be at the Gathering of Nations, held at the New Mexico State Fairgrounds at 300 San Pedro Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The FSDZ will then visit several schools in advance of its next large event on May 6, 2017, at the Las Vegas Science and Technology Festival at Cashman Center in 850 N Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89101 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The FSDZ is a 40-foot interactive vehicle that educates consumers about the four food safety messages: Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill. For more information about upcoming events, please visit the FSDZ webpage at <http://1.usa.gov/1gwsAyf>.

Policy Updates

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

Notice 22-17 - 2017 Yearend Closing Instructions

Notice 23-17- FSIS Pilot for Residue Sampling to Complement the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System Program

Notice 24-17- Consumer Safety Inspectors Responsibilities at Fish (of the Order Siluriformes) Establishments During the 18-Month Transitional Period

Notice 25-17- Inspection Program Personnel Responsibilities at Official Import Inspection Establishments (with an Updated Siluriformes Grant of Inspection) During the Transitional Period

Directive 6420.2 Rev. 1 - Verification of Procedures for Controlling Fecal Material, Ingesta, and Milk in Livestock Slaughter Operations

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

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