

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA).

Date: May 22, 2002 (8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Location: George Washington University, Marvin Center, 800 21st Street, NW., Washington, DC.

This meeting will feature discussion of development financing and the Millennium Challenge Account (the President's New Compact for Development). Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and to discuss the issues in more depth in small groups.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Persons wishing to attend the meeting can fax or e-mail their name to Larritus Jackson, 202-347-9212, pvcsupport@datexinc.com.

Dated: April 15, 2002.

Noreen O'Meara,

Executive Director, Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA).

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 02-006N]

Pathogen Reduction: A Scientific Dialogue

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing that it will hold a two-day symposium to discuss scientific data and issues associated with pathogen reduction and HACCP. The purpose of the meeting is to stimulate thinking and generate new ideas towards enhancement of the

Agency's farm-to-table approach for ensuring the safety of meat, poultry, and egg products.

The symposium will focus on analysis and discussion of microbial testing, anti-microbial interventions, performance standards, and other pathogen-reduction inspection activities. Panels chaired by members of the academic scientific community will address questions such as how pathogens enter the food chain, options for constructing statistically sound performance sampling strategies, new trends in microbiology and microbial ecology, and new technologies to remove or inactivate pathogens on carcasses. This symposium is one of a series of meetings being held to discuss new approaches for increasing food safety in an HACCP environment.

DATES: The symposium is scheduled for May 6 and 7, 2002. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days. A tentative agenda is available in the FSIS Docket Room and on the FSIS Web site at <http://fsis.usda.gov>.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Georgetown University Conference Center, 3800 Reservoir Rd., NW., Washington, DC 20057; telephone (202) 687-3200. FSIS welcomes comments on the topics to be discussed at the symposium. Please send an original and two copies of comments to the FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #02-006N, 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments and the official transcript, when it is published, will be available in the FSIS Docket Room at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Karen Hulebak, Senior Advisor for Scientific Affairs, FSIS, at (202) 720-8609 or by fax at (202) 720-9893. FSIS encourages attendees to pre-register as soon as possible by contacting Ms. Sheila Johnson of the FSIS Planning Staff at (202) 690-6498 or by e-mail to sheila.johnson@usda.gov. If a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is necessary, contact Ms. Johnson at the above numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

FSIS administers the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act. The Agency's activities are intended to prevent the distribution

in domestic and foreign commerce of food that is unwholesome, adulterated, or misbranded, including products that may transmit diseases or that may be otherwise injurious to health.

In recent years, the Agency has placed increased emphasis on its public health protection role. Throughout the 1990's, the Agency's most important goal was an improved food safety inspection system, exemplified by the HACCP regulations, which are now fully implemented. FSIS has sought to enhance the public health by minimizing foodborne illness from meat, poultry, and egg products. The Agency has worked toward this goal by encouraging industry to adopt measures intended to reduce pathogens on raw products. In addition to regulatory activities aimed at achieving this goal, the Agency has sought to strengthen its relationships with the scientific community and with State and Federal public health agencies, to make food safety information and training available to people at each point in the food production and marketing chain, and to promote international cooperation in food safety.

The Agency's Strategic Plan for 2000-2005 provides that FSIS will continue to focus its operations and resources on food safety and will continue to strengthen the scientific basis for its regulatory activities and initiatives.

The Symposium

At the public meeting, university scientists will chair panels and facilitate dialogue among the panelists from government and academia in discussions about HACCP and pathogen reduction activities. The meeting will focus on questions concerning the entry of pathogens into the meat and poultry food chain and the challenges that the microbial ecology of meat and poultry pathogens present for pathogen control. Additional discussion will focus on intervention strategies such as carcass decontamination and process control methods, performance standards, and microbial testing.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS has considered the potential civil rights impact of this public meeting notice on minorities, women, and persons with disabilities. FSIS anticipates that this notice will not have a negative or disproportionate impact on minorities, women, or persons with