

MN FOOD SAFETY AND DEFENSE TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018

Today's meeting was held in the Veterans Service Building – 5th floor Conference Room, 20th Street West, St. Paul.

Ruth Petran called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.

Members present included: Ruth Petran, Courtney Bidney, Charles Dierker (for Steven Diaz), Chris Gindorff, Caldoun Abuhakel, Susan Stokes, Lorrene (Lolly) Occhino, Joe Jurusik (for Susan Palchick), Rosalind Zils (for Benjamin Warren), Cecilia Coulter, and Heidi DeBeck (for Michael Dutcher).

Visitors present included: Katie Lampi, Angela Ames, Rebecca Gallup, Mary Rosendahl, Deb Freedman, Mary Crawford, Paige Hausladen, Lisa Wetzel, Natasha Hedin, Julia Selleys, Vanessa Burandt, Kaylee Errecabrocle, Gretchen Hanson, Sam Karnis, Heidi Kassenborg, Carrie Rigdon, Alida Sorenson, Gwynn Datsko, Jane Jewett, Shaun Kennedy, Susan Bishop and John Larkin.

1. Dates and links

The next Food Safety and Defense Task Force (FSDTF) Meeting will be Tuesday, January 15th at the Orville L. Freeman Building Room B144, 625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, from 1:30– 4:30 PM.

- FDA report on the occurrence of foodborne illness risk factors in fast food and full service restaurants, 2013-2014:
https://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/GuidanceRegulation/RetailFoodProtection/FoodborneIllnessRiskFactorReduction/UCM625005.pdf?utm_campaign=CFSANCU_RiskFactor_11072018&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua&elqTrackId=8970A06AA20DDF8A1C3801CDF26C012B&elq=76a80b671e604affaa93f4c7cd946761&elqaid=5800&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=4677
- Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration report on foodborne illness source attribution estimates: https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/ifsac/pdf/P19-2016-report-TriAgency508.pdf?utm_campaign=CFSANCU_IFSAC_11092018&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua&elqTrackId=D442FBB2DA8E36FFB213F13ADDB4C200&elq=718b9a3060af4f7d8dfa5372a5302cef&elqaid=5840&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=4710
- Land O' Lakes Farmer to Farmer assignment postings: <https://lol.avature.net/careers>
- University of Minnesota Extension and MDA Produce Safety Program sponsored grower trainings:
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/fsma-produce-safety-rule-grower-training-courses>
- University of Minnesota, Center for Veterinary Medicine, Center for Human and Animal Food Safety Engaging Intergovernmental Organizations:
<https://www.cahfs.umn.edu/policy/engaging-intergovernmental-organizations>
- Federal Registrar Request for Information on the use of dairy names for plant based products:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/09/28/2018-21200/use-of-the-names-of-dairy-foods-in-the-labeling-of-plant-based-products>

- Minnesota Department of Health, revised Minnesota Food Code rough draft: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/food/code/fcroughdrft.pdf>

2. The minutes from the September 20, 2018 meeting were approved.

3. Member and Visitor Updates:

Mary Crawford (SuperValu): Attending for Rima Kapadia. SuperValu has been purchased by United Natural Foods Incorporated (UNFI).

Chris Gindorff (Lund Food Holdings, Inc): Introduced Paige Hausladen, current University of Minnesota student. We've been working on the new Food Code and preparation for Thanksgiving.

Paige Hausladen (student): Paige mentioned that she is a junior at the University of Minnesota, studying Food Science. This is her first task force meeting.

Joe Jurusik (Hennepin County Environmental Health): Joe mentioned that they are getting ready for new Food Code and that their department is currently filling some internal positions.

Vanessa Burandt (Legendary Baking) – Vanessa is looking to her expand her network, and meet new individuals to connect with and collaborate. This is her first task force meeting.

Heidi Kassenborg (Kassenborg Consulting LLC): Heidi recently has been seeing a change in the type of students attending the PCQI courses she instructs. Enrollment has increased from bottled water and produce companies. Also attending to provide an update on her volunteer experience with the Land O' Lakes Farmer to Farmer program.

Susan Stokes (Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)): Susan was in Mexico last month for the 27th Annual Tri-National Agriculture Accord. It was a great opportunity to talk to other states about various levels of implementation with the produce rule. Also working on negotiations with delegated agencies which is going well.

Lolly Occhino (AURI): Lolly mentioned that AURI is working with U of M Extension, and the MDA to offer an acidified foods class in April, 2019 instructed by food science subject matter experts: Alison Larson, Ph. D. and Kumar Mallikarjunan Ph.D., both of whom also serve as better processing authorities for Minnesota. Questions can be directed to Lolly for more information. Also, hoping to help publicize though the task force.

Jane Jewett (Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)): MISA was awarded a USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Professional Development Program (SARE-PDP) to do trainings on local food systems in every MN County. Jane also announced that the next grower training course will occur on November 14th in Windom, MN. The next offering after that will be November 28th in Morris, MN.

Mary Rosendahl (Rosendahl Consulting LLC): Mary mentioned that she is helping a lot of her clients re-write their quality management systems.

Charles Dierker (Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)): Charlie is a Supervisor with the Food, Pools and Lodging Division within the MDH. Charlie mentioned that the MDH along the MDA held four trainings throughout the state for regulators. Questions were gathered at the end of these trainings that are being answered and will be provided to all attendees.

Caldoun Abuhakel (Done Right Foods): Caldoun mentioned that the biggest challenge right now has been finding qualified people.

Rebecca Gallup (Target): Rebecca is a Sr. Manager at Target. Target is working on bringing new life/interest within store team members that handle food and serve food. Focusing on five food safety aspects (healthy, handling, temperature controls, clean, and pest control). They have finished their first cycle and are accessing what went well, what could be improved, etc.

Deb Freedman (Food Protection and Defense Institute (FPDI)): Deb is the Education Manager at FPDI. Deb has been working with the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) on their annual food defense conference that will be held in Louisville, KY, July 21-24, 2019. Also working on putting the finishing touches on a Food Defense Awareness film that will be a short 15 min video.

Lisa Wetzel (MDA): The Dairy and Meat Inspection Division has hired two new dairy inspectors. September 30th was the end of the fiscal year for the Meat Inspection Program and they are working on a self-assessment Nov. 1st. Also gearing up for their annual onsite review which will be conducted the last two weeks in March, 2019. The division recently applied for a Milk Safety Training Grant through FDA.

Courtney Bidney (General Mills): General Mills is working on a request for information (RFI) from FDA use of the names of dairy foods in the labeling of plant based products. FDAs announced that it has extended the pilot on tiered inspections for preventative controls for human food inspections under FSMA. General Mills is hoping to participate moving forward.

John Larkin (IEH Laboratories): John has been working on consulting work. He stated that he's running into issues with people not understanding validation.

Kaylee Errecabrocle (University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine, Center for Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS)): Kaylee provided a pamphlet on the CAHFS. The CAHFS will be organizing an Engaging Intergovernmental Organizations (EIO) week-long trip abroad in March of 2019.

Shaun Kennedy (FSI/U of M): Shaun promoted the EIO trip above as he previously participated. Shaun recently attended the 12th Dubai International Food Safety Conference on Global Food Regulatory Trends. It appears there is a global understanding of food fraud. The AOAC is putting together a working group to focus on methodology (targeted and non-targeted) to identify specific contaminants and also look at standardized guidance through Codex. Contact Shaun if interested in the working group.

Angie Ames (Kwik Trip): Angie is attending to listen and learn from others. One of Kwik Trip's biggest challenges right now is staying on top of various food codes as they have stores in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. The company is starting to expand west towards the Dakotas and looking to network and make connections.

Alida Sorenson (MDA): Currently a quiet time of year for the Rapid Response Team (RRT) but preparing to gear up for the holiday season. Planning has started for the next sampling survey focusing on retail deli establishments. The RRT is working on a guidance document addressing six major emergencies that MDA inspectors may encounter in the field. Hoping the document will serve as a checklist and maintain consistency. The RRT team is also preparing for the annual RRT Face to Face meeting in Austin, TX this December.

Cecilia Coulter (MN Farmers Market Association): Cecilia is working on a Farmers Market Aggregation Project.

Gretchen Hanson (Land O' Lakes): Gretchen is a Farmer-to-Farmer Volunteer Recruiter for the Land O' Lakes International Development Program. She will be providing a presentation on Land O' Lakes Farmer to Farmer program focusing on food safety and quality in the countries of Egypt, Lebanon and Bangladesh. This is her first task force meeting.

Sam Karnis (Land O' Lakes): Sam is the Program Director of the Land O' Lakes International Development Program. He is attending to support his team, network and make connections.

Natasha Hedin (MDA): Current outreach projects for the Food and Feed Safety Division (FFSD) within the MDA include working with the Retail Food Program on various outreach activities involving the new Food Code. Also working on a new cottage food producer registration and graphic that will be announced shortly. Natasha also provided an update for Valerie Gamble, Program Manager for the Produce Safety Program within FFSD. The Produce Safety Program has hired a new data analyst Lebo Moore, who started with the program on October 17th. Lebo is working with existing staff to process questionnaire responses and continue to build out a produce farm inventory for Minnesota. The Produce Safety Program is currently beta testing an inspection prioritization tool developed by NASDA and the FDA to plan inspections for 2019. The tool uses weighted, pre-identified factors such as sales range, crops grown, and water source (among others) to rate farms on a scale from 0-100.

Ruth Petran (Ecolab): Ruth attended the 12th Dubai International Food Safety Conference on Global Food Regulatory Trends. The meeting went well and was participated by 1500 food safety individuals from the Middle East. Ruth mentioned the FDA report on the Retail Risk Factor Study and another set of data on from the Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration report on foodborne illness source attribution estimates. Ruth also mentioned that the Produce Safety Alliance has lots of valuable resources available including a spreadsheet on sanitizers.

4. Land O' Lakes Farmer to Farmer Program

Gretchen Hanson, Land O' Lakes Farmer to Farmer Volunteer Recruiter provided a presentation on their upcoming program focusing on food safety and quality in the countries of Egypt, Lebanon and Bangladesh. Heidi Kassenborg, DVM also shared her volunteer experience on a past Farmer to Farmer program. If interested in volunteering for the upcoming program please visit the Land O' Lakes Farmer to Farmer assignment posting link above. Gretchen's presentation slides are attached.

5. Food Innovation Team (FIT) Subcommittee Update

Jane Jewett, U of M, gave an update on the FIT team meeting held earlier today. This was the group's second meeting. The group elected Jane Jewett as chair and Kathy Zeman as co-chair of the subcommittee. The group reviewed its first official case and provided an update on the draft recommendation report. The group has one case tabled for the next meeting in January.

6. Member Update - MDA

Carrie Rigdon, Response and Outreach Supervisor, provided a presentation on the MDA divisions and programs. Her presentation slides are attached. Chris Gindorff volunteered to provide the next member update at the January meeting.

7. Flexible Funding Grant Discussion

Carrie Rigdon, MDA, presented on the Flexible Funding Model Award Application Strengths and Weaknesses. The composite score for the task force application was 93.67 and the five areas of the application that were scored included: effective use of grant funds, integration, replicability, significance, and communication. Carrie will follow-up on the weakness feedback received under effective use of grant funds as clarification is needed. Natasha Hedin, MDA facilitated a training topics discussion for the upcoming grant year. Deb Freedman with the FPDI provided a brief overview of their Intentional Adulteration Training including the course objectives and agenda. Additional discussion took place with the general consensus that the task force would like to focus on food defense training along the lines of the outline shared by Deb Freedman. Additional sub-topics were also raised including active shooter crisis and cyber-attacks. Conversation will continue next month. Participants present were asked to consider the gaps they see or hear about with others they interact with.

8. Agenda Items for Next Time

- Chris Gindorff – member update spotlight
- MDA and MDH – collaboration presentation complaints received, processing and follow-up.
- MDA – raw pet food and increase in human illness associations.
- MDA – continue training topics conversation under new FFM
- FSIS/USDA Update – Dawn Sprouls and Roberta Wagner

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**Attachment 1
Upcoming Event Flyers and Additional Information**



Engaging Intergovernmental Organizations

University of Minnesota | 18-22 March, 2019

The Engaging Intergovernmental Organizations (EIO) program is a week-long professional development program where select participants visit and learn from intergovernmental (IGOs) partners at the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Designed for mid and senior level government officials, private sector leaders, and academic faculty, participants will visit organizations in Paris, Geneva and Rome to expand professional networks while learning about how to effectively engage with intergovernmental organizations. The program will focus on emerging challenges such as international trade, antimicrobial resistance, food safety & security, among others.

Leveraging IGO expertise and university innovation to build new partnerships that meet national government needs on important topics

Program Objectives

- Program participants will be aware of high priority issues and programs for IGOs, and will be aware of how the IGOs interact with each other and with external partners to advance global goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals, International Health Regulations, Joint External Evaluation, Performance of Veterinary Services, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreements, among others.
- Program participants will understand how their work can support international capacity building efforts for the IGOs and how they can collaborate effectively on new proposals for capacity building and research initiatives to support Tripartite strategic priorities.
- Program participants will work collaboratively to develop at least one new collaborative proposals/ concept note that is designed to support IGO needs for capacity building and/or research. Initial 2-page concept notes will be eligible for 10k USD of seed funding to support engagement.

Program Outcome

Long-term strategic relationships established and supported, to advance IGO initiatives and goals.

Program Participants

With an established strategic priority for the program, 10-15 participants will be selected as a program working group. Participants will be recruited from academia, government, industry and non-profit from the US and network partners in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition, four program positions will be reserved for someone from each IGO (OIE, WHO, WTO and FAO).

For more information on program registration and cost, please visit z.umn.edu/EngagingIGOs

Proposed Agenda for 18-22 March, 2019

Monday March 18:

Paris

OIE Headquarters

Tuesday March 19:

Geneva

WHO Headquarters
(afternoon)

Wednesday March 20:

Geneva

WHO Headquarters
(morning)

Thursday March 21:

Geneva

WTO Headquarters

Friday March 22nd:

Rome

FAO Headquarters

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**Attachment 2
Land O' Lakes Farmer to Farmer Program – Gretchen Hanson**

John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program: Food Safety and Quality

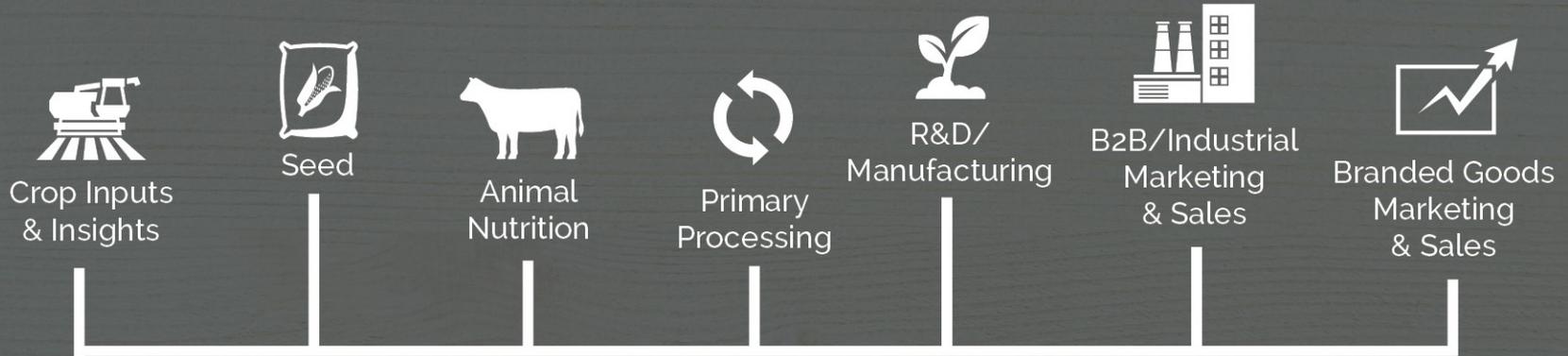


Agenda

-
- 1 Land O'Lakes International Development
 - 2 Farmer-to-Farmer
 - 3 Our Objectives
 - 4 Our Volunteers
 - 5 Opportunities
-

LAND O' LAKES, INC.

{ AN END-TO-END VIEW }



Production Consumer

..... *farmer-owned*

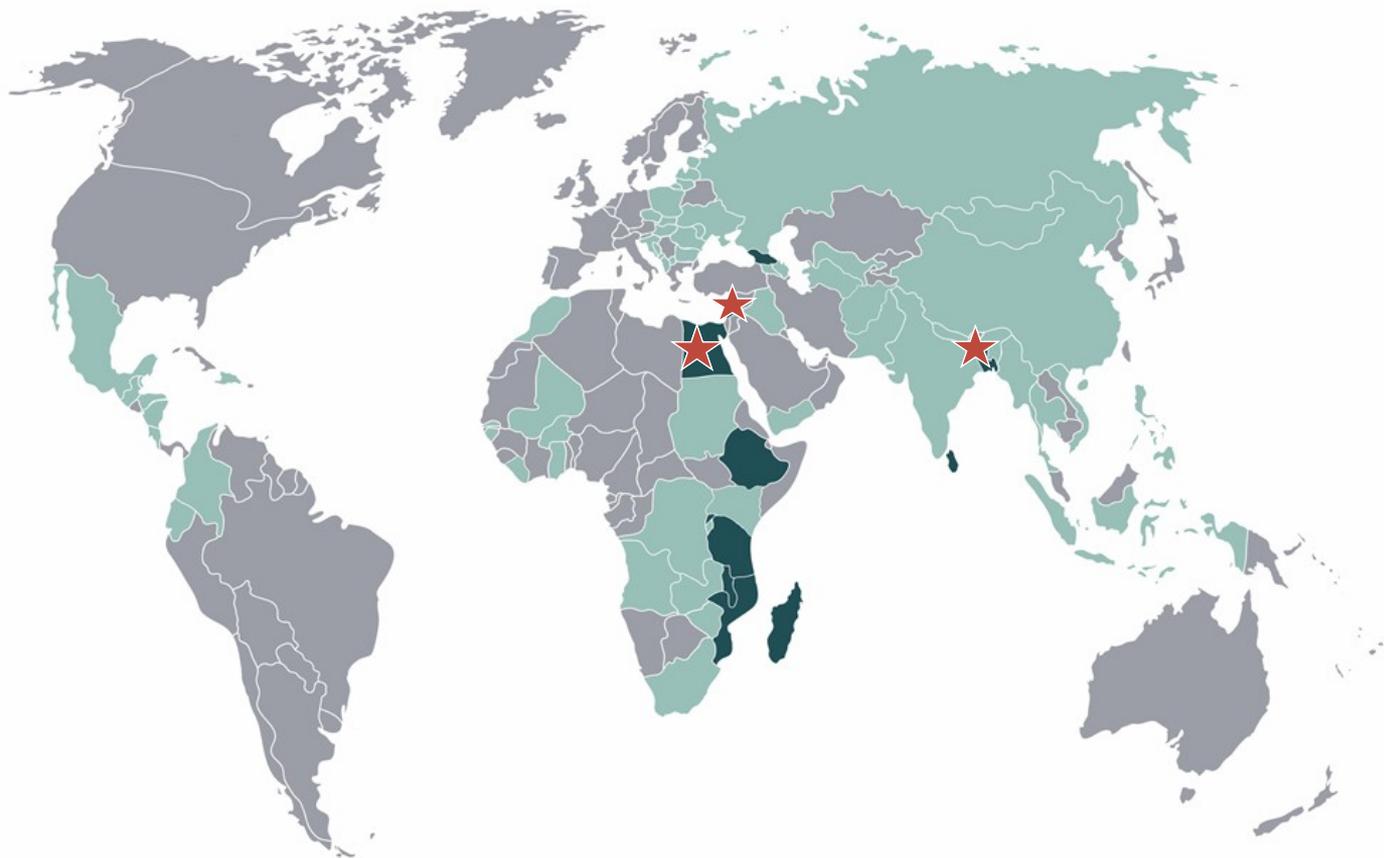
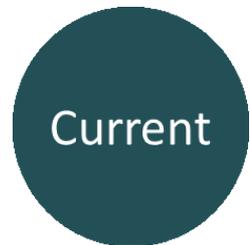
..... International Development

Why food safety and quality is important to us

- **Consumer demand** for safe and high-quality food across the globe
- **International trade** is dependent on countries being able to meet global standards
- **Vital from farm-to-fork** across sectors and value-chains
- **A national agenda item** in the countries we work
- **Fundamental to health** and human productivity



Where we work



Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program Goals and Strategy

Objective 1:

To generate sustainable, broad-based economic growth in the agricultural sector

Objective 2:

To increase the American public's understanding of international development issues and programs and international understanding of the U.S. and U.S. development programs



Other F2F Implementers

ACDI/VOCA – Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia

Catholic Relief Services – East Africa & Asia

CNFA – Southern Africa

IESC – Financial Services

Land O'Lakes – Food Safety and Quality

NCBA CLUSA – Coops, Coffee, Horticulture

Winrock International – West Africa

Partners of the Americas – Caribbean Basin and AVOP

Land O'Lakes and F2F

Looking back we...

Sent
1,400+
volunteers
to 27
countries

Utilized
160+ Land
O'Lakes, Inc.
Employees +
coop
members

Supported
450+ host
enterprises

Looking forward we will...

Support
50 host
enterprises

Send
213
Volunteers

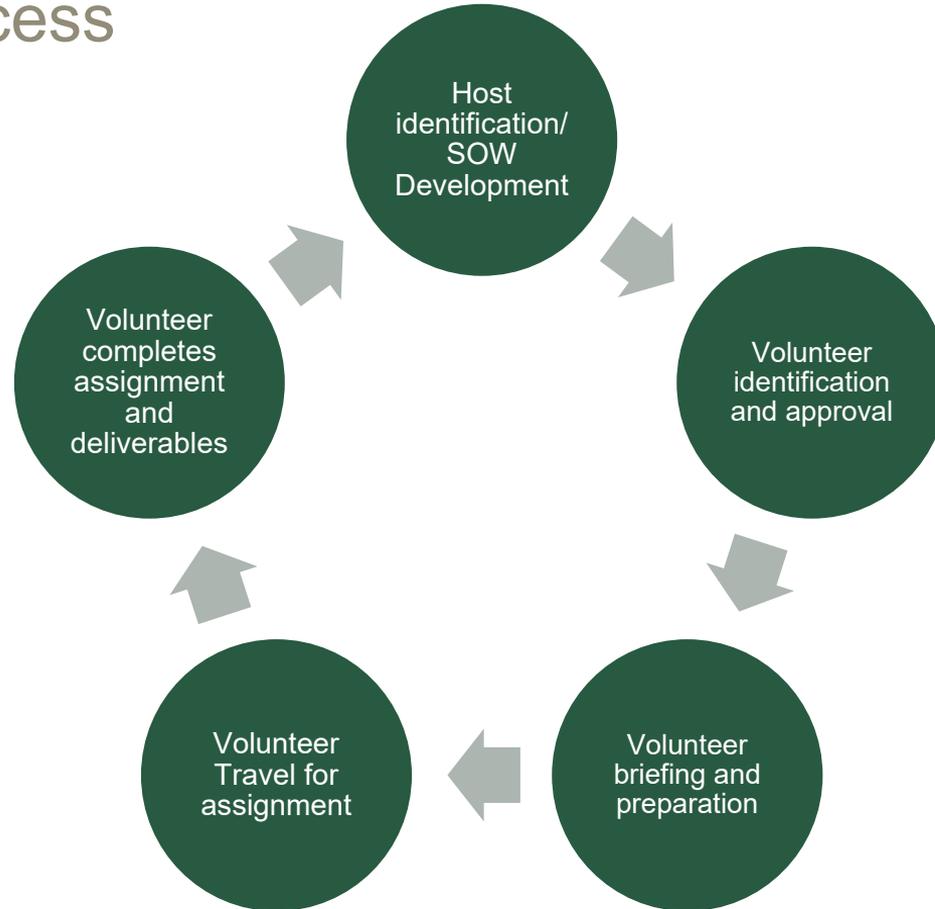
Impact
350,000
people

Our approach to:

- Global Markets Program – 70%
- Enabling Environment - 30%
- Identifying Host Organizations
- Identifying Volunteers



Volunteer Process



Egypt

Host Organizations: Milk Collection Communities Project(MCCP), CARE & Grants, and Innovation & Technology Transfer Center (GITTC)

Assessed and provided recommendations on food safety practices at Milk Collection Centers (MCCs) in Beni Suef, Egypt. The MCCs were experiencing very high Somatic Cell and bacterial counts.





Assignment #2

Patricia Pratt - Restructuring of Imported Food Control Process



Lebanon

Host Organization: Ministry of Economy and Trade – Consumer Protection Directorate

Facilitated collaboration between local government and academic institutions.

Assignment #3

Fadi Aramouni - FSMA/PCQI Training and Guidelines on Product Development

Lebanon

Host Organizations: Notre Dame University, LIVCD – Pome Fruit Value Chain, NABAT Organic SARL

Provided seminar trainings to food processors at three different hosts on new export requirements and latest food market trends.



Assignment #4

Barakat Mahmoud - Dairy Good Manufacturing Practices



Egypt

Host Organization: Nahdat
Bani-Suif Foundation

Conducted inspections of dairy facilities and held trainings on good hygienic and manufacturing practices.

Impact

“Everyone has the right to consume safe food. We can step in and offer advice on how to solve their problems. Usually simple fixes lead to huge outcomes.”

– Volunteer

“The volunteers are the best! They put their heart and souls into this assignment. They were up working long hours along side us to make this workshop a success.” – Host organization

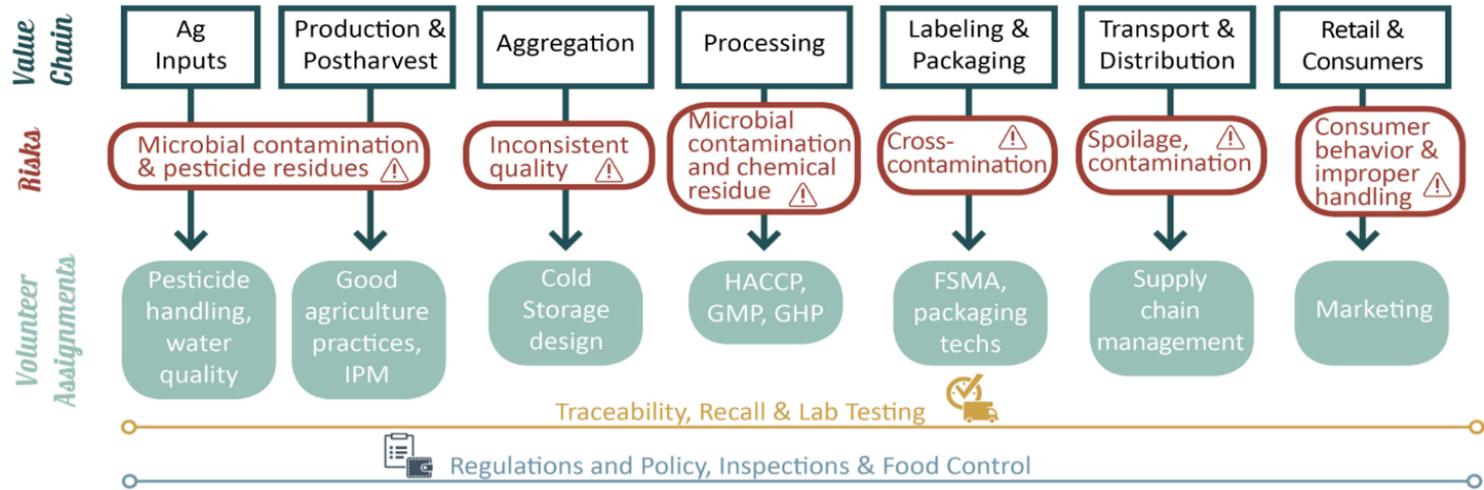
“Thanks again for your assistance and your volunteer work. You did it with a lot of passion and professionalism. I hope to see you again in Lebanon!”

- Host Organization

“They treat us like family coming to visit.” - volunteer

“The support from the country office was superior, every detail was handled professionally.”
- Volunteer

Share Your Expertise!



Find our F2F assignment postings here:

<https://lol.avature.net/careers>

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**Attachment 3
Member Update – Carrie Rigdon, MDA**



Minnesota Department of Agriculture Overview

Carrie Rigdon

MN Food Safety and Defense Task Force

11/13/2018



Ensuring the integrity of Minnesota's food supply | www.mda.state.mn.us

Agriculture: An Economic Cornerstone in Minnesota

- Agriculture generates \$112 billion in economic activity
- Supports 431,000 jobs
- As of 2015, Minnesota had 73,600 farms
- 1st in nation in production of turkeys, sugarbeets, processed sweet corn
- 2nd in hogs, wild rice
- Generated \$7.1 billion in exports

Our mission is to enhance Minnesotans' quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength of our agricultural economy.

Mission of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Two Main Areas of Responsibility



We are the primary state agency responsible for protecting the state's food supply and a key player in protecting the state's natural resources.



We are the primary agency responsible for supporting and promoting the state's ag industry and economy.

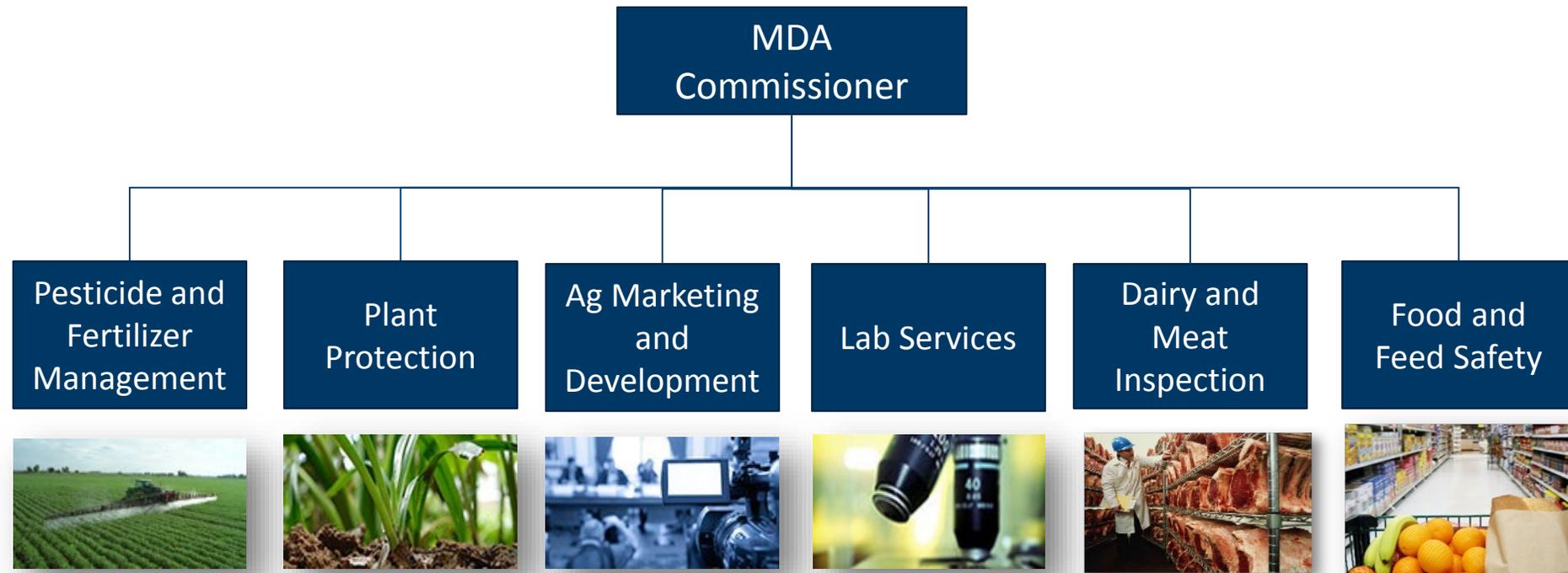
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Our 450 employees provide many services that impact Minnesota residents every day:

- We promote Minnesota farm products in local, state, national, and international markets.
- We respond to diseases and pests that threaten agriculture and natural resources.
- We inspect all grocery stores and convenience stores, as well as all dairy farms and processing plants.
- We regulate feed mills and fertilizer plants.

Department Structure

We carry out our responsibilities through six main program areas:



Food Regulatory Activities



Inspections

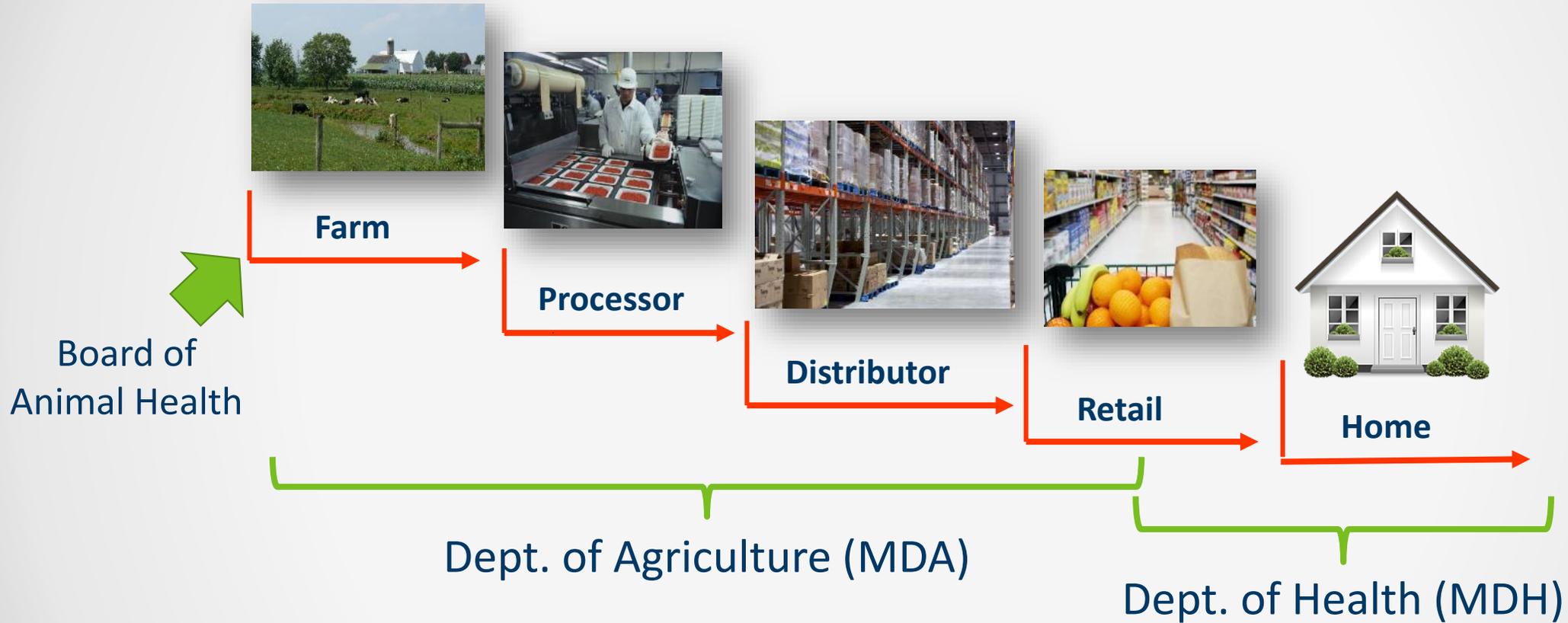


Investigations

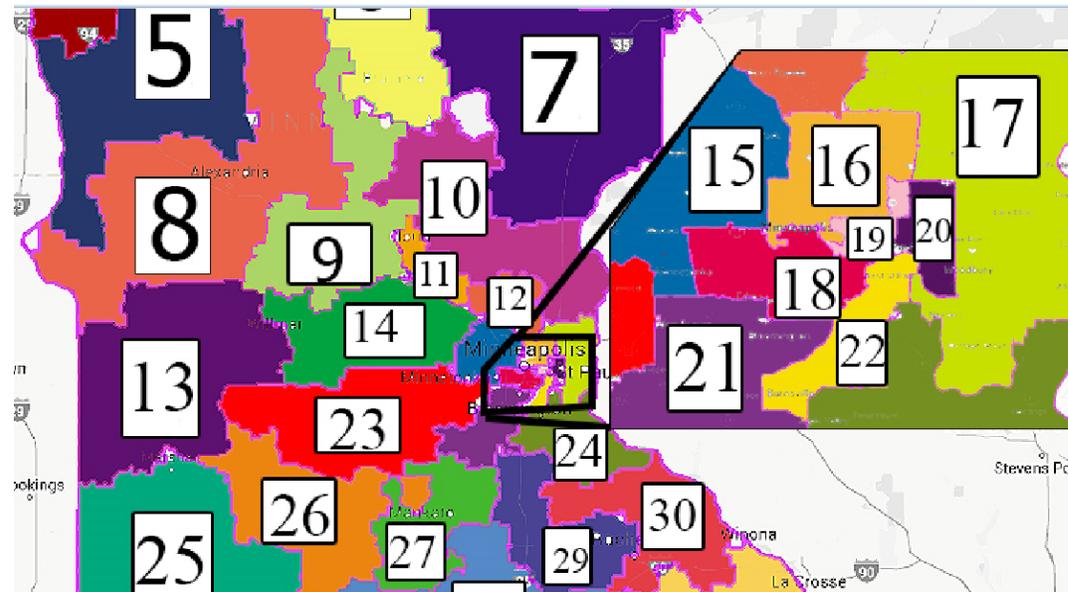
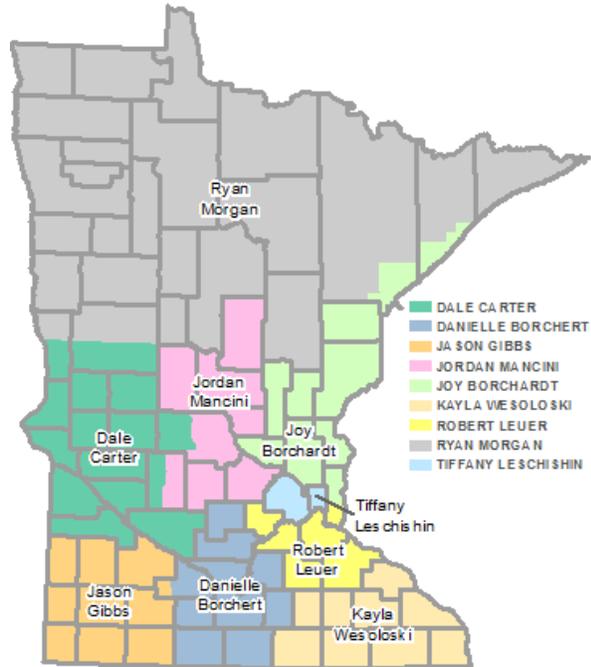


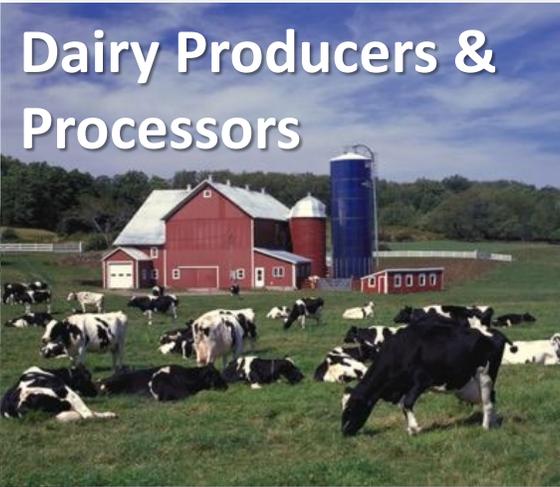
Enforcement

Regulatory Responsibility across the Food Supply Chain

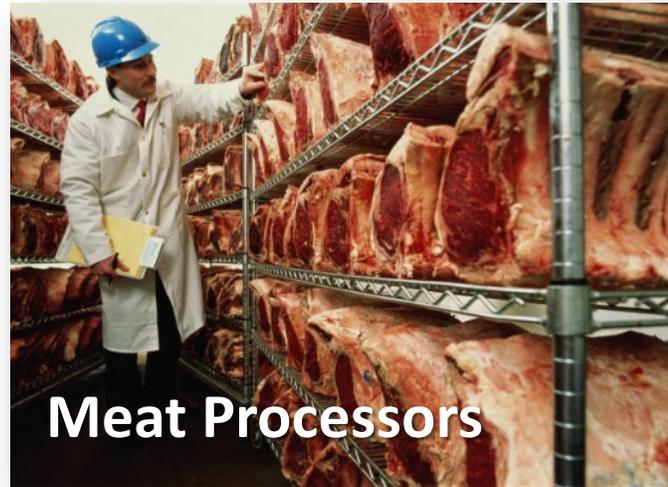


Inspection Staff located throughout Minnesota





Dairy Producers & Processors



Meat Processors



Food Manufacturers



Feed Mills & Pet Food

What is inspected: Manufacturing



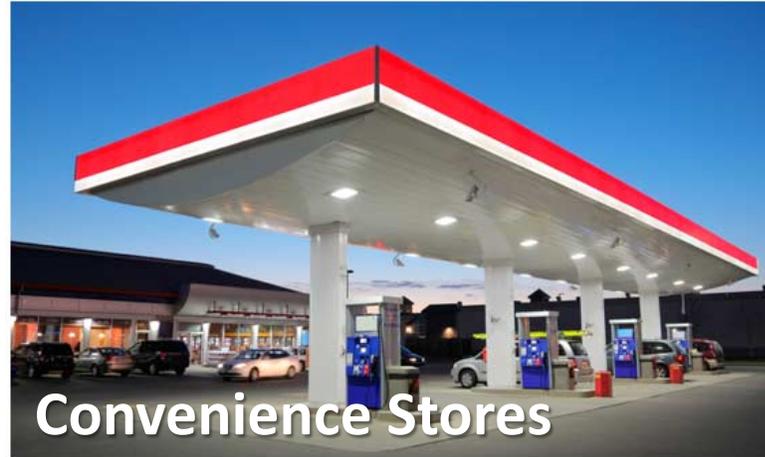
Mobile Sales



Groceries



Bakeries



Convenience Stores



Vending

What is inspected: Retail

Food Inspection

- In FY17 & FY18:
 - 2,800 manufactured food inspections
 - 7,000 retail food inspections



Animal Food Inspection

- Feed is Food
- Conduct inspections at feed manufacturers
- Antibiotic issues (tissue residue, veterinary feed directive)
- Guaranteed analysis
- Rendering plants
- Pet food manufacturing
- In FY17 & FY18:
 - 1,000 animal feed inspections
 - 1,800 animal feed product samples + 16,000 analytes analyzed



Dairy Inspection

- Inspects >2900 dairy farms in the state
 - 2x per year
- Inspects bulk milk haulers (950 licensed)
 - Bi-annually
- Inspects dairy plants
 - 4x/year
- Verify compliance of Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO)
 - Allows milk to move across state lines



<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/dairy-minnesota>

Meat and Poultry Inspection

- Regulated businesses include 53 state Equal 2 inspected meat processors and 232 Custom exempt slaughter facilities
- >6,000 hours of *slaughter* inspection at 24 state-inspected meat processors.
- >8,900 processing inspections
- 700 inspections of the state's 232 custom-exempt slaughter facilities.



<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/meat-poultry-and-egg-inspection>

Egg Inspection and Drug Residue Prevention

- 5 State facilities inspected Quarterly through the USDA Shell Egg Surveillance program
- FDA Drug Residue Prevention Project Grant
 - 3rd year
 - Focus on educating to prevent Meat & Milk residues
 - Outreach Documents for producers, training modules for veterinarians, resources for livestock auction markets.



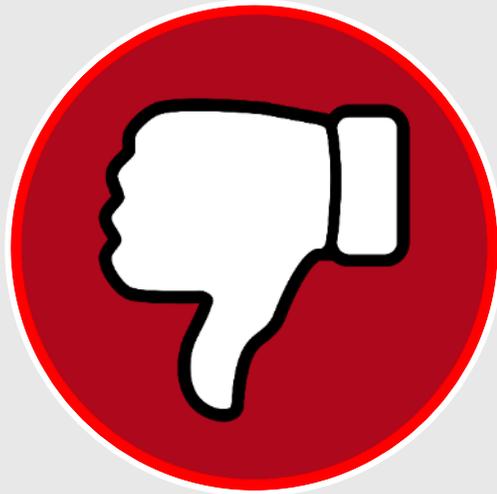
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/food-feed/meat-poultry-and-egg-inspection> and
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/residue-prevention>

Produce Safety Program

- Established in 2017
- Cooperative agreement with U.S. FDA
- Promotes understanding of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule
- Partnering with University of Minnesota and others



Investigations



Complaints



**Product
Contamination**



**Outbreak
Investigations**

Complaints

M
F
I
H

Cal
foo
(65'
Toll
1-8'
1-8'



In 2018 to date:

- 324 non-illness complaints received and reviewed

FY2018 Response Investigations

37

investigations / responses

28

with human illness

23

in which a pathogen was
identified

10

Resulted in a consumer
advisory

9

Resulted in a recall

Product Contamination – Food in Transit





Participate
in 100+
outreach
activities
every year



Questions/Discussion

Thank you!

Carrie Rigdon

carrie.rigdon@state.mn.us

651-201-6453

**MN FOOD SAFETY AND DEFENSE TASK FORCE
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**Attachment 4
Flexible Funding Model Strengths and Weaknesses – Carrie Rigdon, MDA**



Grants

Flexible Funding Model Cooperative Agreement Award – Application Strengths & Weaknesses

Carrie Rigdon | Response & Outreach Unit Supervisor

MN Food Safety and Defense Task Force

November 13, 2018

A Recap: What is changing?

- Funding model now combines support for multiple programs into one grant application
 - Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS)
 - Food/feed Rapid Response Team (RRT)
 - Food Protection Task Force (FPTF)
 - Special Projects
- Application covers 5 years
- Funding would begin August 1, 2018
- Slight increase in available funds for Task Forces from \$9,000/yr. to \$10,000/yr.



Funding Objectives for Task Force Applications

- 1) Provide a forum for all the stakeholders of the state food protection system – regulatory agencies, academia, industry, consumers, state legislators, and other interested parties to promote HAF safety and defense;
- 2) Assist in adopting or implementing applicable sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Food Code, and other food protection laws and regs.; and
- 3) Promote the concept of an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) by communicating and supporting agency objectives that maximize the protection of public health through integration activities.



5-Year Award for Food Safety Task Force

- Award received 8/29/2018 for 3 programs: MFRPS, RRT, Task Force
- Task Force = \$10,000 per year for 5 years
- Project period: 9/1/2018 – 6/30/2023
- Composite score for Task Force application: **93.67**
- Five areas of application were scored:
 - 1) Effective use of grant funds
 - 2) Integration
 - 3) Replicability
 - 4) Significance
 - 5) Communication



Effective Use of Grant Funds

Strengths:

- + The proposed budget is relevant and impactful towards achieving the goals of the cooperative agreement.
- + State support of FPTF expenditures and costs
- + Not too much personnel costs

Weaknesses:

- Unclear what FPTF will provide beyond what RRT and other collaboration efforts have already provided to the state.
- RRT/MFRPS might be a better avenue to provide trainings mentioned as part of FPTF



Integration

Strengths:

- + Membership includes: Minnesota Agriculture, Minnesota Health, FDA, USDA, Agriculture Utilization Research Institute, University of Minnesota, local EH agency, public and food and agriculture industries and groups.
- + Serves as a forum for stakeholders, assists with implementation of applicable regulations, and promotes the concept of an integrated food safety system
- + Plans to develop and distribute multiple outreach and promotional items

Weaknesses:

- Collaboration with other FPTFs is not largely described. Only sharing of materials and reaching out to other task forces but no actual collaboration.
- Only one stated member representing local health partners.
- Not clear if academic groups are included in FPTF.



Replicability

Strengths:

- + The FPTF has historically worked toward fulfilling this objective in numerous ways. Specifically, it has hosted many trainings and workshops for stakeholders aimed to integrate FPTF work with federal and state laws.
- + One objective of the Task Force is to communicate and support Federal/State/Local objectives to maximize protection of the public's health through integration activities.

Weaknesses:

- Unclear if the Task Force has unique partners and stakeholders that don't interact with Federal/State/Local agencies through other venues.



Significance

Strengths:

- + The mission and objectives are clearly identified and address all of the items
 - + routine communication between stakeholders;
 - + training;
 - + improving inspections/investigations;
 - + illness prevention/response
 - + working together to achieve compliance with food regs/laws
- + Planned needs assessment and survey to identify knowledge gaps and design trainings to address those gaps

Weaknesses:

- (none)



Communication

Strengths:

- + Applicant will share information via website
- + Past trainings and workshops have worked to integrated the work of the FPTF with federal and state laws
- + FPTF regularly discusses how it can better serve our state and the national efforts to integrate food safety objectives
- + Plan to establish food innovation team to inform and educate businesses

Weaknesses:

- Not super clear how work of FPTF will benefit integrated food safety system.
- No mention of outreach to legislators or Boards



Questions/Discussion

Thank you!

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