BIO-SECURITY, A NATIONAL PRIORITY IN A NEW ERA

A FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE PERSPECTIVE ON BIO-SECURITY AND SAFE FOOD

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Biosecurity Group Organization

- Protection of Agriculture/Food Supply (USDA Chairs for Administration-wide WMD Preparedness Group)
  - USDA Homeland Security Council (Subgroup -- Protection of Food Supply and Agriculture Production)
  - FBAT FSIS’ Food Biosecurity Action Team
  - PrepNet Food Threat Preparedness Network (Interdepartmental)
USDA Homeland Security Council

- Coordinates department-wide homeland security issues
- Tracks USDA progress on homeland security objectives
- Ensures information, research, and resources are shared, and activities are coordinated with other Federal agencies
Biosecurity Preparedness Groups: Where Does FSIS Fit In?

- USDA Homeland Security Council
  - Subcouncil for Protection of the Food Supply and Agriculture Production
- F-BAT (FSIS Food Biosecurity Action Team)
- PrepNet (FSIS, APHIS, FDA, CDC, EPA, DOD)
FBAT
Mission Statement

- The mission of FBAT is to coordinate and facilitate all activities pertaining to biosecurity, countering terrorism, emergency preparedness and emergency response within FSIS.
F-BAT
Focus of Activities

- Ensure the continuation of FSIS essential functions during emergencies;
- Ensure employee safety pertaining to terrorism, bioterrorism and catastrophic emergencies;
- Ensure FSIS is prepared to prevent and respond to agricultural terrorism or attacks on the food supply;
F-BAT
Activities (continued)

- Ensure proper communication with FSIS employees, USDA, industry, trade associations, consumers, media and Congress; and

- Ensure the security of our laboratories, and adequate laboratory capability.
FSIS Biosecurity Actions

Improving Ability to:

- Prevent threats to food safety
- Ensure early detection
- Assure containment
FSIS Biosecurity Actions - continued

- Assessing vulnerabilities in the meat, poultry & egg products supply
- Encouraging and cooperating with private security measures
- Strengthening laboratory security and capabilities
- Enhancing communications and coordination with other agencies
FSIS Biosecurity Actions - continued

- Placed inspectors on heightened awareness at ports of entry and in meat, poultry and egg products establishments
- Adding responsibilities to new humane slaughter positions in District Offices to serve as information source and response team for bioterrorism
FSIS Biosecurity Actions - continued

- Strengthened FSIS coordination and cooperating with law enforcement agencies

- Developed capacity of Athens laboratory to test for anthrax in food and will develop capacity to test for other biological agents
FSIS Biosecurity Actions - continued

- Reviewing our web site to determine what information should be removed
- Developing training for our field force and coordinating with other agencies in joint training
Coordination with APHIS

- Work closely with APHIS at ports of entry, surveillance, detection.
- Coordination on training opportunities for APHIS and FSIS veterinarians in surveillance for foreign animal diseases
2002 Winter Olympics

- FSIS Olympic Team personnel conducted compliance-related activities in preparation for the Olympics

- Coordinating with USDA Command Center in Utah, ATF and military personnel, and various food suppliers to Olympic venues.

- Coordinated procedure for public communications in event of emergency.