VoluntaryNet: An Introduction

CFSF Food Attribution Workshop
Pew Charitable Trusts
February 1st, 2012
VoluntaryNet – The Concept

- UGA’s CDC Food Industry Food Forum
  – CDC, FDA, USDA, Food Industry Participants
- CDC’s desire to get better insight into industry’s world
- Industry’s desire to better understand CDC process and historical info as to trends on ingredients
- Opportunity to provide better transparency between Industry and Govt (CDC, FDA, USDA)
- Funding provided by industry participants
VoluntaryNet – The Process

• Isolate database working group established
• The 500 pound gorilla
  – Industry concern about implication
  – CDC concern about info provided and in the event of an issue, industry coming forward
• Conceptual beginning: Imported tomatoes
• Roadblock
  – Getting past it
• VetNet presentation – agreed that this was the direction we needed to go
VoluntaryNet – The Tool

- Third party managed database - UGA
- Anonymity of samples
  - No identification of company submitting samples
    - Company knows their sample identification
    - Database administrator would not know who sample are from
- Third party DBA manages data for emerging trends and compares info with CDC PulseNet database as a licensed user
- CDC monitors PulseNet and inquires VoluntaryNet if trend identified or if epi leads them to food
VoluntaryNet – The Launch

• Intent is to launch the tool January 1, 2012
• Group meeting with FDA October 7
• Industry will provide any historical isolate info if feasible
• CDC will provide Industry with historical information from PulseNet on hot items or hot regions for risk assessment
• MOU’s to be completed and funding to be raised
Thank you!