Collaborative Food Safety Forum - Scoping Workshop
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Proposed Agenda

- Bottom Line Up Front
- Foodborne Illness Investigations
  - Directive 8080.3
  - Anatomy of an investigation
  - Information-sharing opportunities
  - Example traceback
- Where information-sharing can help
Bottom Line Up Front

• Partners in prevention
• Shared importance in safety of food
• Shared importance in consumer trust
• Always opportunities to improve
• Welcome conversations to do so
ILLNESS INVESTIGATIONS
United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service

Directive 8080.3

Key Points:
- Factors determining whether to submit a product sample
- Collecting, preparing, and shipping product samples
- Field activities during a foodborne illness investigation (Environmental assessment)
- Procedures for analyzing data
- Agency responses to the findings of a foodborne illness investigation

FSIS Homepage search “8080.3”
Anatomy of an Investigation

**Notification**
- Local/State Territorial DOH
- CDC or FDA
- Internal Surveillance
- Media reports
- Other parts of FSIS

**Evaluation**
- Is it FSIS-regulated product?
- Is there a link to illness?
- Are methods scientifically valid?
- Are lab/epi/environmental findings consistent?

**Product Sampling**
- Consider availability and integrity of sample
- Collect sample
- Notify affected firm
- Continuous PFGE review

*Initiate Investigation*
Anatomy of an Investigation

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**Product Sampling**
- Consider availability and integrity of sample
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Was the sample intact? Did it suffer temperature abuse? Was it properly stored to avoid cross-contamination? Are the product labels available for product identification?

*Initiate Investigation*
Anatomy of an Investigation

OPEER: Traceback & Traceforward
- In commerce
- Product sampling
- Product info
- Locate/detain product
- Product tampering

OFO: Traceback & Traceforward
- Under est. control
- Product sampling
- Supplier info
- Same- or like-coded product

OPHS: Analysis and Assessment
- Population-descriptive information
- Common source
- Geographic and temporal distribution w.r.t. product distribution
- Alternative hypotheses
- Biological plausability

Concurrent activities require constant communication
Anatomy of an Investigation

Did exposure precede illness?
Was illness consistent with known clinical characteristics?

**Do Traceback/Forward suggest common source?**
Are findings consistent with Agency experience?
Was disease confirmed by laboratory analysis?

Concurrent activities require constant communication

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**OPHS: Analysis and Assessment**
- Population-descriptive information
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Many case patients, few establishments
WHERE CAN INFORMATION SHARING CAN HELP
Traceback leads to common distributor

- Epi and traceback lead to common distributor
- Distributor records important in identifying establishment
  - Suppliers
  - Shopper cards/sales records
  - Grinding logs
  - Facility maintenance records
Traceback leads to many establishments
Traceback identifies multiple products
In Summary

• First step of conversation is establishing where in the process the investigation is, rather than what investigation findings are
• Single source may not yet be identified
• Industry information can help identify common source
• Source may be upstream to slaughter house