

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.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-040N]

Meeting on HACCP-Based Inspection Models Project for Slaughter Plants

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Agency is holding a public meeting to discuss its HACCP-based Inspection Models Project for slaughter plants. The morning session will provide background information on the Inspection Models Project. The afternoon session will focus in some detail on the project's specific phases and timelines and will conclude with an open discussion period.

DATES: The meeting will be held on July 27, 1998, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C., 10 Thomas Circle NW (at Massachusetts Avenue and 14th Street), Washington DC 20005, (202) 842-1300.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: To register for the meeting, contact Ms. Jennifer Callahan of the FSIS Planning Staff at (202) 501-7138 or FAX (202) 501-7642. Attendees who require a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation should contact Ms. Callahan at the above numbers by July 22, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Inspection Models Project is an outgrowth of the Agency's Pathogen Reduction/Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (PR/HACCP) Systems Final Rule, published on July 25, 1996. The PR/HACCP rule calls for the establishment of a HACCP-based food safety system to reduce the risk of foodborne illness from meat and poultry products.

In a **Federal Register** Notice of June 10, 1997, FSIS requested public comments on the design and development of new inspection models for slaughter and processing in a HACCP environment (62 FR 31553). This notice summarized recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences and the General Accounting Office that FSIS reduce its reliance on organoleptic (sensory) inspection and redeploy its resources by using inspection methods that are based on the risks inherent in meat and poultry slaughter operations. To accomplish these objectives, it is clear that new inspection methods must be developed and tested that are consistent with the meat and poultry inspection laws and the systems now required by the PR/HACCP rule. This inspection models project will help define the respective responsibilities of FSIS and the regulated industry in slaughter establishments operating under HACCP.

The Inspection Models Project will rely heavily on objective data. Data will be used to: (1) Measure the accomplishments of the present inspection system in slaughter establishments using data on the pathology, microbiology, and wholesomeness of carcasses produced under the current system; and (2) measure the effectiveness of the new inspection models at establishments where plant personnel will be tasked with performing slaughter process control and FSIS inspectors will rigorously perform oversight and verification inspection tasks. FSIS will then have comparable data to evaluate the models and determine their effectiveness.

The meeting is open to the public on space-available basis. Transcripts of this meeting will be available in the FSIS Docket Room.

Done in Washington, DC, on July 13, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-19324 Filed 7-20-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-031E]

Extension of Time Period To Submit Abstracts of Scientific Papers

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of Time Period to Submit Abstracts of Scientific Papers.

SUMMARY: In the **Federal Register** notice dated July 7, 1998, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced it was soliciting abstracts of scientific papers for a conference on Technology to Improve Food Safety" to be held on July 28, 1998, in Washington, DC. The notice said that the abstracts must be received no later than COB July 8, 1998. FSIS would like to extend the date for submission of abstracts through July 17, 1998.

DATES: The conference will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 1998. Abstracts of scientific papers must be received no later than COB July 17, 1998; the final papers no later than COB July 20, 1998. Based on the number of requests for space received by July 17, 1998, FSIS will determine whether it will be able to make exhibition space available. The conference will be held in two sessions: Technologies for Reducing Pathogens and Technologies for Detecting Pathogens. Please specify for which session the paper is intended.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Federal Hall Ballroom of the Washington Plaza Hotel, 10 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC. Two copies of the abstracts and final papers should be sent to Ms. Mary Harris, Room 6904, Franklin Court Building, 1099 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William J. Hudnall, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Office of Policy, Program Development, and Evaluation; telephone (202) 205-0495 or FAX (202) 401-1760.

Done in Washington, DC, on July 14, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

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