

Workshop on Industry Interests and Issues

December 13, 2006
Washington, DC

Meeting Goals and Agenda

Goals

This workshop is part of a larger Food Safety Information Infrastructure (FSII) project that is being conducted by a team at the University of Maryland under the auspices of the Food Safety Research Consortium and with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The purpose of the FSII project is to engage the food safety community in dialogue to identify practical opportunities for improving how food safety data are collected, made accessible, and shared to improve food safety.

The FSII Workshop on Food Industry Interests and Issues is being organized in collaboration with the Food Products Association and will examine the role of the food industry in the food safety information infrastructure. The workshop goals are to:

- Understand how food industry data needs can be better met through interaction within the private sector and among industry, government, and academic institutions; and
- Understand whether and how industry-generated food safety data might be useful to and could be shared with other stakeholders, public and private, to improve food safety.

To facilitate discussion, this invitation-only workshop will be limited to 30 participants, with the majority drawn from the food production, processing, and retail industries, and the balance from government, academia, public health, and consumer organizations.

Agenda

8:30-9:00 – **Introductions and Background** (led by Craig Henry and Mike Taylor)

- Welcome and introductions of participants
- Brief background on and status of the FSII project
- Review of agenda and goals for the workshop

9:00-10:30 – **Industry Data Collection, Data Needs, and Perspectives** (led by Randy Huffman and Jenny Scott)

This 90-minute session will include three brief presentations that provide background on food industry data collection and data needs and industry perspectives on opportunities to improve the food safety information infrastructure.

- Current practices in food safety data collection, including types and purposes of data collection – Randy Huffman
- Food industry data needs and data sources for food safety system management – Dane Bernard
- Results of FPA survey of industry perspectives on FSII issues – Jenny Scott

10:30-10:45 – Coffee Break

10:45- 12:15 – **Opportunities to Better Meet Food Industry Data Needs** (led by Bill Sveum and Tim Freier)

This is a discussion session that is intended to elicit ideas from all participants about how food industry data needs can be better met. Questions for discussion include:

- What are the food industry’s highest priority, unmet food safety data needs?
- What sources or combination of sources – industry, government, or academia – are best suited to meet these needs?
- How specifically could industry data needs be better met through improving practices and interactions involving:
 - Industry colleagues and groups?
 - Government surveillance, research, and regulatory agencies at all levels?
 - Academic researchers and institutions?

12:15-1:15 – Lunch

1:15-3:00 – **Opportunities for Wider Sharing of Food Industry Data** (led by Craig Henry and Catherine Woteki)

This discussion is intended to assess whether and under what circumstances industry-generated food safety data could be shared within industry and with other food safety stakeholders for purposes of improving food safety. Questions for discussion include:

- What utility might industry-generated data have for others?
- How is that utility limited by the purpose and manner of the data collection?
- What are the key constraints (technical, legal, regulatory, business, resource, etc.) on industry sharing of food safety data?
- For what purposes and under what conditions might food industry sharing of data be possible?

3:00-3:15 – Coffee Break

3:15-4:30 – **Synthesis and Possible Next Steps** (led by Pat Verduin and Mike Taylor)

The purpose of this session is to distill as many concrete ideas as possible for practical steps that could be taken to improve how the food industry interacts with the food safety information infrastructure to improve food safety.