



# North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

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Established 2003

## **Meeting Agenda**

**November 14, 2012**

*Media Room*

*NC Emergency Management*

*1636 Gold Star Drive, Raleigh NC*

*9:30 a.m.*

- I. **Opening remarks** – Cherelle James (NCEM)  
Minutes of last meeting (please review prior to meeting)  
Tabled until next meeting
  
- II. **Agenda:**
  - A. Foodborne Illness Outbreak(s) Update-David Sweat, DHHS
    - a. Cleveland Co. Fair outbreak (E. coli 0157); animal-related; two different strains of 0157 associated with petting zoos (particularly if patrons fed the animals); no association with food; Discussion on possible mitigation steps for prevention of future outbreaks; discussion on bird-related outbreaks
  
  - B. **“User-Engagement Session with NCB-Prepared: Demonstration and Discussion”**  
David Potenziani, NCB-Prepared  
The National Collaborative for Bio-Preparedness (NCB-Prepared) is a new online information service that will provide early detection of threats to human health using analytics across a diverse set of data sources to derive alert information. Their representatives described the service that offers information about the general character of the issue, its location, and its trending on a periodic schedule or on demand. NCB-Prepared reviews data that are generated earlier in a health incident in order to provide earlier situational awareness based on novel analytic techniques. They showed a case study that alerted on the emergence of gastrointestinal issues earlier than traditional methods. NCB-Prepared is currently enhancing its capability to generate alerts specific to foodborne illnesses. During the session, they received feedback from the Task Force members that is helpful as they continue to develop the approach.
  
  - C. Food Code Implementation Update-Larry Michael  
It’s been 10 weeks since the implementation of the 2009 Food Code in retail food service establishments; in the process of evaluating the implementation, but things are going well thus far; discussion on the interpretation of food safety manager certification by local health departments with facilities with multiple permits; the

Food Protection Program will provide a database of questions/answers to industry and regulatory personnel

III. Business:

A. Committee reports:

- Executive Committee – **Dan Ragan/Don Delozier**
  - i. IAFP Conference will be held in Charlotte on July 28-31, 2013; Steve asked for volunteers to help with “local Accommodations Committee”
  - ii. Google Calendar and website access
  - iii. Executive Order expires in 2013; revisions will be completed in 2013
- Dairy Security Committee - **Kay Sigmon**
  - i. No Report
- Recall Enhancement Committee – **Annette Dunlap/Harry Wilson**
  - i. Annette Dunlap announced date for winter Recall Prevention Workshop - to be held January 16, 2013, in Greensboro. Exact venue TBD.
  - ii. Reported on attendance at September workshop - had approximately 20 attendees, about half of whom were in meat processing. Reported that the response and feedback were very positive, and rated this as one of the best workshops we've had since we started holding them three-plus years ago. Also mentioned the Produce Recall Workshop had about 40 attendees and was well-received.
- Crop/Produce (including NC Fresh Produce Safety Task Force) – **Fletcher Arritt**
- Conference Planning Committee- **Cris Harrelson**
  - i. The third annual NCFSD Task Force conference will be held at the Sheraton Imperial on May 22-23, 2013. Conference Planning Committee members will be hearing from Cris soon on a planning schedule.
- Outreach and Communication Committee - **Ben Chapman**
  - i. Possible outreach and education on FSMA in the works
- Education and Exercise Committee – **Annette Dunlap**
  - i. Annette requested input from the task force on ideas for presentation topics. Mentioned that we only need four presenters - January, March, July, and November meetings. Also mentioned that this is a committee of one and more members are welcome.
  - ii. Sharron Stewart suggested radiation protection as a possible educational topic

B. Other reports:

- Academic Reports

- i. No report
  - Industry Reports
    - i. Steve Tracey and Food Lion has been highly involved in the peanut butter-related recalls; also learning and complying with new Food Code requirements
  - Agency Reports
    - i. Donna Wanucha (USFDA) announced that FDA will be starting a new risk factor study beginning in 2013; this study will focus on “why” risk factors occur; FDA inspectors will be conducting 38 inspections in each facility type
    - ii. Dan Ragan (NCDA&CS) mentioned that they are inundated by recalls; NCDA&CS is tracking them (63 recalls in October alone); large strain on staff and resources committed to recalls; Jim Melvin discussed the peanut butter/Trader Joe’s-related recall and the myriad of products that were affected; numerous recalls also associated with Salinas Valley area emphasizes the need for increased surveillance nationwide; David Sweat discussed the reasons behind the Trader Joe’s peanut butter recall (manufacturer couldn’t provide a clean break in the manufacturing process so recall was pushed further back);
    - iii. Don DeLozier discussed the fact that a recall was made in 2012 based upon salmonella spp. in raw poultry (not considered an adulterant)-recall was based on illnesses; David commented that possible litigation issues was the reason behind the recall; cooking instructions were also emphasized
    - iv. Preventative controls and fresh produce controls (as part of FSMA) will most likely be moving forward
- IV. Agenda items for next meeting(s) and meeting date and time  
Next Meeting: January 9, 2013 beginning at 9:30 a.m. in NCEM (Gold Star Drive, Raleigh)
- V. *Presentation: “Food Safety Oversight at the 2012 Democratic National Convention”*  
Larry Michael, DPH/NCDHHS and Donna Wanucha, USFDA  
Larry and Donna presented an overview of the food safety and defense activities associated with the DNC in Charlotte (September 2012). Presentation is posted on the Task Force website.
- VI. Adjournment