



North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

Established 2003

Meeting Notes

January 9, 2013

Media Room

NC Emergency Management

1636 Gold Star Drive, Raleigh NC

9:30 a.m.

I. Opening Remarks – Allison Smathers on behalf of Fletcher Arritt
No comments or revisions on the last meeting's minutes

II. Agenda:

- A) Introductions of New Members
 - a. Andrew Capps, NCDA&CS
 - b. George Miller, Food & Fuel for the Forces

- B) Foodborne Illness Outbreak Update – Carl Williams
 - a. The Division of Public Health will release an outbreak report regarding the Cleveland County Fair. Cleveland County is working with the local health department to improve safety in the future.
 - b. Discussion of future foodborne illness outbreak reports occurred. Group is in agreement that they want to hear more of a routine surveillance update.
 - c. No other active ongoing outbreaks going on at this time.
 - d. Brett Weed reported that FDA is working with S.C. to investigate a Scombrototoxin outbreak in fish, which is believed to be caused by temperature abuse.

- C) New Food Safety Modernization Act Rules Overview – Dan Ragan
 - a. Proposed Rule for Produce: Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption
 - i. Implementation time: 2 years for large farms, 3 years for small farms, and 4 years for very small farms. Additional 2 years after that for water amendments.
 - b. Proposed Rule for Preventive Controls for Human Food: Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food

- i. Implementation time: 1 year for large farms, 2 years for small farms, and 3 years for very small farms.
 - c. Public comment is open for 120 days in the Federal Register and the rules will be in place 60 days after the comment period. The Fresh Produce Safety Task Force will be developing bullet points about the rules during a meeting on Friday. We are trying to determine what the amendments mean for farmers. We also hope there will be some listening sessions about the new rules.
 - d. Olson and Weed law firm has conducted a brief synopsis of the two rules.

III. Business:

A) Committee Reports

- Executive Committee – **Cherelle James**
 - i. Influenza season is in full swing and some Norovirus has been reported in long term care facilities.
 - ii. Don Delozier had a stroke on the weekend of Dec. 8, 2012. He is in rehab now and will be returning back to work today.
 - iii. Joe Reardon resigned from FDA and is moving to TN.
 - iv. Discussed grant money for the taskforce. The Executive Committee is working with NCSU on a project targeting food safety in NC farmers markets and is currently determining other routes to pay for the program. We cannot pay for personnel. Ideas about how to use the grant money should be sent to Cris or Cherelle.
 - v. Ideas for Task force speakers were discussed. If anyone has ideas, please email Cris.
- Dairy Security Committee – **Jim Melvin**
 - i. No report
- Recall Enhancement Committee – **Annette Dunlap/Harry Wilson**
 - i. Encourage anyone who manufactures or processes food to sign up for the “Protecting Your Business, Preventing a Recall” workshop scheduled for Jan. 16.
 - ii. In March 2011 FSI sent out a compliance document, which identified some processing issues.
- Crop/Produce (including NC Fresh Produce Safety Task Force) – **Ben Chapman**
 - i. Ben will be presenting a recall response presentation at a produce conference in Savannah tomorrow afternoon to 45 participants.
 - ii. Focusing on FSMA and updating our current GAP training materials, which were produced in 2007 and 2008. Diane Ducharme is in a position to help us with funding.
 - iii. We have submitted a grant proposal to FDA for a conference to pull together all land-grant institutions in the southeast region

that research fresh produce. The conference is needed to set research priorities. This is being headed by the University of Georgia.

- Conference Planning Committee – Steve Tracey
 - i. Conference is scheduled for May 22 & 23, 2013 at the Sheraton in Durham. We brainstormed speakers at the last Executive Committee. There is an agenda being developed for a 1.5 day conference. We are always looking for folks to help with the conference around those dates.
- Outreach and Communication Committee – Ben Chapman
 - i. Committee has not met. We are getting together this week to discuss FSMA, which is the center piece about what we will start putting on the website.
- Education and Exercise Committee – Annette Dunlap
 - i. Annette has speakers for the July and November meetings. September is when we have the joint meeting with Fresh Produce Task Force. May is the conference. She still needs to set up speakers for the March meeting, which is in Salisbury.

B) Other reports

- Academic reports
 - i. Ben Chapman (NCSU) encouraged folks to attend strategic planning sessions for N.C. State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Listening sessions are occurring across the state and Ben encourages folks to be a part of this, especially in regards to food safety.
- Industry reports
 - i. Steve Tracey (Food Lion) announced that Sarah Durham has joined the Food Safety Team at Food Lion. He also introduced Lindsay Kueffner from the N.C. Retail Merchants Association.
 - ii. Steve Tracey discussed the media's future testing of ground beef. The media will report on what they've found after taking ground beef out of the retail case. Ground beef is labeled with fat and lean percentages; labeling is not a perfect science. USDA allows meat processing plants a 20 percent leeway of these targets. Industry is expecting some news stories to come out in February and wanted the food community to be on the same page with accurate talking points we can communicate.
- Agency Reports
 - i. Brett Weed (FDA) discussed they have found Listeria in packs of smoked fish. One of the six came into N.C., 2 pound packs of smoked salmon.

IV. Agenda items for next meeting(s) and meeting date and time

Next Meeting: March 13, 2013 beginning at 10 a.m. in Salisbury at Food Lion headquarters

Cris and Steve will draft an agenda for the meeting

*V. Presentation: “**Innovative Food Defense Program Outreach & Education: 2012 Review**”*

Mark Cosby, NCDA&CS Food and Drug Protection Division

Dr. Mark Cosby presented an overview of the Innovative Food Defense Program, which was made possible through a grant from the FDA. Presenting the IFDP program as a webinar was a suggestion. Presentation is posted on the Task Force website.

VI. Adjournment