



United States Department of Agriculture

One Team, One Purpose



# Food Safety and Inspection Service

Protecting Public Health and Preventing Foodborne Illness



Food Safety and Inspection Service:  
Office of Public Health Science

# The How and Why of Sampling Analyses

---

**ARS-FSIS Food Safety Research Meeting**

**Shepherdstown, WV**

**February 21, 2018**

**Dr. Michelle Catlin**

Director, Risk Assessment and Analytics Staff

**Dr. J. Emilio Esteban**

Executive Associate for Laboratory Services

Food Safety and Inspection Service:

## FSIS: A Public Health Regulatory Agency

Ensure meat, poultry, and processed egg products are safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.



# Food Safety and Inspection Service:

## A Sample's Life at the Lab – Chemical Residues



# Food Safety and Inspection Service:

## A Sample's Life at the Lab – Microbiology



# Food Safety and Inspection Service: What Are We Looking For?

1. Presence of Pathogens and their Characteristics
2. Chemical Residues
  - Antibiotics and other drugs
  - Environmental Contaminants (e.g., pesticides, lead)
3. Pathology
4. Others as Needed
  - Foreign Objects
  - Fat content
  - Allergens
  - Speciation

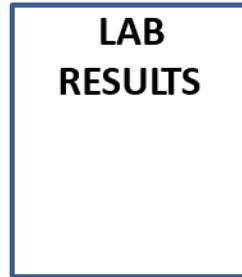


Piece of glass allegedly found in raw chicken.

# Food Safety and Inspection Service: Putting the Results to Work

## Assess Individual Establishments or Countries:

- e.g., adulterants, *Salmonella* performance standards, residues



## Track Agency Progress, Conduct National-Level Surveillance and Establish FSIS Priorities

- e.g., is the frequency of *E. coli* O157:H7 positives decreasing over the years

## Conduct Investigations of Outbreaks and Other Special Circumstances

- e.g., do the characteristics of pathogens in FSIS-regulated products match those seen in human cases?

## Modernize Agency Policies and Regulations

- e.g., combine sampling results and data from other inspection tasks to see where FSIS has the greatest effect on food safety; identify products at highest risk for Lm

Food Safety and Inspection Service:  
Office of Public Health Science

# Thank You!





Food Safety and Inspection Service:  
**Questions**

