

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection
January 7 – 8, 2014
Washington, DC

Subcommittee on
FSIS Establishment-Specific Data Release Strategic Plan

Report and Recommendations

1. How would the Committee recommend the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) prioritize the list of datasets to be released?

FSIS should publish a demographics data set for all plants which would include information such as plant size, species, type of operation, etc. This data set will be important for users to correlate with other data sets the agency releases. FSIS should begin releasing data with its sampling data and prioritize sampling programs for pathogens that are considered adulterants (such as Ready-To-Eat (RTE) and Shiga-Toxin *E. coli* (STEC) programs). FSIS should also prioritize the release of establishment specific data for data sets which FSIS already publishes in summary/aggregated form. Another data set that could be released early is binary data on establishments describing whether certain tasks are performed or not, whether FSAs are performed, etc.

The Committee encourages FSIS to release data sets in as timely a manner as possible and to release data sets on a regular basis. The Committee encourages FSIS to ensure the integrity of the data prior to release. The Committee would like FSIS to update the Committee annually about its progress on data release generally.

2. Are there datasets that are not included on the list that should be considered?

FSIS should consider other data sets including a demographics data set for all plants; humane handling violations; inspection and enforcement data; binary data describing whether certain inspection tasks are performed or not, whether Food Safety Assessments (FSAs) are performed and why, etc.

Additional data sets which may not be establishment specific but would be important for public health include: Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) patterns on all positive samples and data on the distribution of positive samples/serotypes including the month the sample was collected, the region of the country the sample was taken, etc.

3. How would the Committee rank/group the evaluation criteria? Are there any additional criteria that we should consider?

The Committee thought that FSIS' list of criteria was a good list. The Committee did not recommend ranking or weighting the criteria because FSIS would have to look at all the criteria on a case by case basis with each data set. However if FSIS changes the criteria the agency should update stakeholders about the change and explain why the change was made.

The Committee agreed that data that contains Personally Identifiable Information (PII) for FSIS personnel and data that contains corporate proprietary information should not be released. The Committee suggested a few changes to the criteria:

- The potential impact to industry should be a separate consideration from whether the data contains corporate proprietary information.
- #4 should consider the costs to release *and maintain* the data.
- The public health impact should be its own criteria rather than a subset of #5.
- #6 should be reworded to focus on how complicated the description of the data may be.

The Committee recommended that FSIS should routinely evaluate which data sets are being used to understand how stakeholders are using the data and which data sets are most valuable to stakeholders. The Committee urges FSIS to consider how to address changes in sampling programs and to be clear with stakeholders when sampling programs are changed which can impact the comparability of the data.