

# *Security of the Food Supply: FDA Perspective*



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# Food Security

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- The systems in place to reduce foodborne pathogens are the same systems that will assist us in preventing or responding to a terrorist attack.
- Especially critical is our reliance on science-based approaches to solving public health problems.

# Main Message

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- ***No evidence*** that food is a target
- It is ***possible*** to use food as a vehicle
- That's why we're concerned
- That's why we need to be prepared

# Food Security

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Overall Goal: Preserve Safety and Security of U.S. Food Supply

- Anticipate
- Respond
- Deter

# Anticipate

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- Threat Assessments

# Anticipate

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- Threat Assessments
  - Batelle study
  - Internal (CDC list and food commodity processing)
  - IFT Study

# Bacterial Threat Agents\*

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- **Category A**
  - *Bacillus anthracis* (anthrax)
  - *Yersinia pestis* (plague)
  - *Francisella tularensis* (tularemia)
- **Category B**
  - *Coxiella burnetti* (Q fever)
  - *Brucella* species (brucellosis)
  - *Bukholderia mallei* (glanders)
  - *C. perfringens* epsilon toxin
  - *S. aureus* enterotoxin B
- **Category C**
  - Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis

\*CDC



# Viral Threat Agents\*

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- **Category A**
  - Viral hemorrhagic fever
  - Lassa fever
  - Rift Valley fever
  - Ebola hemorrhagic fever
  - Marburg hemorrhagic fever
- **Category C viral agents**
  - Hantavirus
  - Nipah virus (encephalitis)
  - Yellow fever

\*CDC





# Anticipate

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- Threat Assessments
- Intelligence Gathering

# Anticipate

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- Threat Assessments
- Intelligence Gathering
- Operational Risk Management

# Food Safety and Security: Operational Risk Management

November 2001



# Food Safety and Security: Operational Risk Management

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- Identify the Hazards
- Assess the Risk
- Analyze Risk Control Measures
- Make Control Decisions
- Implement Risk Controls
- Supervise and Review

			PROBABILITY				
			Frequent	Likely	Occasional	Seldom	Unlikely
			A	B	C	D	E
SEVERITY	Catastrophic	I	Extremely High				
	Critical	II		High			
	Moderate	III		Medium			
	Negligible	IV		Low			
			Risk Levels				

# Respond

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- Emergency Response Exercise(s)
- Lab Capacity/Surge Capacity (LRN)
- Public Information Strategy

# Deter/Prevent

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- Guidance to Industry

# Food Security Guidance

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- January 9, 2002
- Food Producers, Processors, Transporters, and Retailers
- Importers and Filers
- [www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/guidance.html](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/guidance.html)



# Food Security Guidance

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- Management of the food security system, including investigation of suspicious activity
- Restricting access for visitors
- Improving the physical security of the grounds and buildings
- Securing laboratory facilities
- Securing hazardous chemicals

# Food Security Guidance

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- Screening, identifying, training, supervising, and restricting access for employees, including drivers and contractors
- Securing critical data systems, including ordering and distribution
- Improving the security of incoming raw materials, packaging, and water and products shipped to or distributed by the firm

# Food Security Guidance

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- Improving the security of finished products that are shipped from the facility
- Developing terrorist response and recall strategies
- Self-evaluation of the facility's food security system

# Deter/Prevent

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- Guidance to Industry
- Imports

# Deter/Prevent

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- Guidance to Industry
- Imports
- Laboratory Testing and Methods Development

# New Legislative Authorities

# Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002

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- Registration
- Maintenance of Records
- Administrative Detention
- Prior Notice of Imported Food Shipments

# Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 – cont'd

- Debarment (importers)
- Marking of Refused Imports
- Grants to States
- Authority to Commission Other Federal Officials



# Strengthen Communication and Coordination

# Strengthen Communication and Coordination

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- Meetings with consumer groups, industry and other federal agencies
- 50-state conference calls
- Food Threat Preparedness Network (PrepNet)

# What We Have Going for Us

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- Capability and know-how
- Positive relationship with industry
- History of successfully responding to challenges
- Recent successes on food safety
- Public trust/Employee esprit-de-corps

# Conclusion

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- Food safety and food security are closely related.
- FDA is increasing its vigilance.
- We need to be prepared for what is reasonably foreseeable.

# Conclusion (cont'd)

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- We need to recognize that unexpected things may also happen.
- We need to have the flexibility to respond swiftly and effectively.

Suspect product tampering or any  
food contamination of an FDA  
regulated product...

FDA 24 h emergency # 301-443-1240  
or

LOCAL FDA District Office: listed at  
FDA's website ([www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov))

