Food Safety Research Needs in a Global Economy

Liz Wagstrom, DVM, MS
National Pork Board
Overview

- Fork to Farm Approach
- Acceptable Risk
- Data to Inform Risk Assessments
- Need for Publically Funded Data
Fork to Farm Approach

- Emphasis placed on pre-harvest, on farm interventions may be inefficient
- Research needs to identify the most effective points in the chain for intervention
- Research needs to identify most economical points in chain for interventions
Interventions

- Silver bullets are rare
- Incremental changes important only at certain points in the chain
- Education needs to be considered an intervention
Acceptable Risk

- Food is not sterile
- Presence of a pathogen not necessarily a risk
  - Quantitation
    » Real-time, “rapid” is relative
  - Infective dose
- Effectiveness of consumer education
Risk Assessment

- Biological risk assessments increasing in importance
- Data to inform the risk assessment essential
- Provide a scientific basis on which to base policy and practice
Publically Funded Research

- Increasing concerns expressed over industry data or research supported by data
- Importance of supporting and strengthening the peer review process
Summary

- Pathogen ecology and epidemiology studies will allow for targeted approaches at the appropriate place in the fork to farm chain
- Risk assessments, and the definition of acceptable risk, will allow policy and practice decisions with a scientific basis
- Public funding and peer review will build credibility into the research process