

Technical Talk

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Webinar to address in-plant validation of food safety interventions in beef products

Stillwater, Okla. – Sept. 4, 2009

An upcoming U.S. Department of Agriculture – Food Safety and Inspection Service webinar will present methods of determining the effectiveness of food safety interventions in small and very small beef products establishments. The webinar will be held Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

The topics covered in this webinar will include basic objectives of in-plant validations, design of experiments, methods to achieve objectives and the interpretation of results. At the conclusion of the webinar, an establishment should have the basic tools to determine the expected outcome of its existing interventions and use the information to strengthen its HACCP plans.

Dr. James S. Dickson will be the speaker during the webinar. Dickson is currently a professor in the department of animal science at Iowa State University and the professor in charge of the Iowa State Component of the Food Safety Consortium.

Dickson's research focuses on the control of bacteria of public health significance in foods of animal origin. He has a courtesy appointment with the department of food science and human nutrition, is a fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology and is a past president of the International Association for Food Protection. He also is active in the American Society for Microbiology and the Institute of Food Technologists.

Prior to his appointment at Iowa State University in 1993, he was employed by USDA – Agriculture Research Service as a research food technologist and lead scientist of the Meat Safety Assurance Program, located at the Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Neb. Dickson was employed in the food

industry for three years before joining USDA-ARS.

The USDA-FSIS learned from industry outreach and listening sessions that small and very small meat, poultry and egg product plants need access to more resources to improve their food safety and food defense systems. Therefore, FSIS is offering educational webinars on six topics to small and very small plant owners and operators that will help them with this initiative.

Registration is needed in order to attend the webinar. Upon registration, a seminar representative will make contact with participants to provide instructions on joining the event. Register online at www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Regulatory_Web_Seminars/index.asp, or for more information, e-mail FSIS.Seminars@fsis.usda.gov.

USDA-FSIS Webinar

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009

11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

Register: www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Regulatory_Web_Seminars/index.asp

E-mail questions to: FSIS.Seminars@fsis.usda.gov