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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Docket No. FSIS-2015-0035

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice is announcing that the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold meetings of the full Committee and subcommittees on September 9-11, 2015. The Committee will discuss: 1) Effective Salmonella Control Strategies for Poultry and 2) Virulence Factors and Attributes that Define Foodborne Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) as Severe Human Pathogens.

DATES: The full Committee will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Subcommittee on Effective Salmonella Control Strategies for Poultry and the Subcommittee on Virulence Factors and Attributes that Define Foodborne Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) as Severe Human Pathogens will hold concurrent open subcommittee meetings on Wednesday, June 9, 2015 from 1 p.m. to 5 p. m., Thursday, September 10, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, September 11, 2015

from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The September 9, 2015, full Committee meeting will be held at the Residence Inn by Marriott, Washington DC, 333 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024. The subcommittee meetings will be held at the Patriot's Plaza III, 1st Floor Auditorium and Conference Rooms, 355 E. Street SW, Washington, DC 20024. All documents related to the full Committee meeting will be available for public inspection in the FSIS Docket Room, USDA, 355 E. Street SW, Patriots Plaza 3, Room 8-164, Washington, DC 20250-3700, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, as soon as they become available. The NACMCF documents will also be available on the Internet at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations & Policies/Federal Register Notices/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations%20&%20Policies/Federal%20Register%20Notices/index.asp).

FSIS will finalize an agenda on or before the meeting dates and post it on the FSIS Web page at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings & Events/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings%20&%20Events/). Please note that the meeting agenda is subject to change due to the time required for Committee discussions; thus, sessions could start or end earlier or later than anticipated. Please plan accordingly if you would like to attend a particular session or participate in a public comment period.

Also, the official transcript of the September 9, 2015, full Committee meeting, when it becomes available, will be kept in

the FSIS Docket Room at the above address and will also be posted on [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About/NACMCF Meetings/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About/NACMCF%20Meetings/).

The mailing address for the contact person is: Karen Thomas-Sharp, USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Health Science, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Patriots Plaza 3, Mailstop 3777, Room 9-47, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers, or providing comments at the September 1, plenary session should contact Karen Thomas: Phone: (202) 690-6620; Fax (202) 690-6334; E-mail:

Karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov or at the mailing address

above. Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations should notify Ms. Thomas by September 1, 2015.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The NACMCF was established in 1988, in response to a recommendation of the National Academy of Sciences for an interagency approach to microbiological criteria for foods, and in response to a recommendation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations, as expressed in the Rural Development, Agriculture, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill for fiscal year 1988. The charter for the

NACMCF is available for viewing on the FSIS Internet Web page at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About/NACMCF_Charter/.

The NACMCF provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health issues relative to the safety and wholesomeness of the U.S. food supply, including development of microbiological criteria and review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The Committee also provides scientific advice and recommendations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Departments of Commerce and Defense.

Mr. Brian Ronholm, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA, is the Committee Chair; Dr. Susan T. Mayne, Director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), is the Vice-Chair; and Dr. James Rogers, FSIS, is the Executive Secretary.

Documents Reviewed by NACMCF

FSIS will make all materials reviewed and considered by NACMCF regarding its deliberations available to the public. Generally, these materials will be made available as soon as possible after the full Committee meeting. Further, FSIS intends to make these materials available in electronic format on the FSIS Webpage (www.fsis.usda.gov), as well as in

hard copy format in the FSIS Docket Room. FSIS will try to make the materials available at the start of the full Committee meeting when sufficient time is allowed in advance to do so.

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Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Webpage located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/federal-register/federal-register-notices>.

FSIS also will make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies,

procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update also is available on the FSIS Webpage. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service, which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/programs-and-services/email-subscription-service>. Options range from recalls to export information to regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their accounts.

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Done at Washington, DC on: August 6, 2015.

Alfred V. Almanza
Acting Administrator

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