Meat & Poultry Inspection: Performance Measures, Budget Projections and Needs

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Agenda

- MDA’s Mission
- Overview of RBA at MDA
- Meat Program Performance Accountability-Definitions
- Meat Program Performance Measures
- Story behind the curve-Real Scenarios
- Proposals for improving progress & call to action
MDA Mission Statement

• Our mission is to enhance Minnesotans’ quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength of our agricultural economy.
RBA at MDA

- What is RBA? *Results Based Accountability*
• MDA’s Population Results:
  – Minnesota has a safe food supply
  – Minnesota has a healthy environment
  – Minnesota has a thriving agricultural economy
Definitions

• **Population:**
  – **Result:** A condition of well-being for children, adults, families, or communities
  – **Indicator:** A measure which helps quantify the achievement of a result

• **Performance:**
  – **Performance Measure:** A measure of how well a program, agency, or service system is working
Meat Program Performance Measures

- Measuring the success of the Minnesota Meat and Poultry Inspection Program
- Who are the key players in a program’s success?
Overview of the Meat Program

• How much have we done?
• How well did we do it?
• Is anyone better off?
In State Fiscal Year 2014…

**Slaughter Inspection**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Very Small Plants</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Inspected</td>
<td>Nearly 15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry Inspected</td>
<td>Over 121,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Processing Inspection**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Very Small Plants</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of Product Produced Under Inspection</td>
<td>4,703,325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where are we?
Custom Exempt Inspection

• Custom exempt processors handle more “direct marketing” kind of business
• In Fiscal year 2014 conducted 645 inspections at 240 processors
• Inspection frequency: 1-4 inspections per year based on firm’s past performance or availability of inspector to do inspection
Compliance work

• 85 compliance actions (letters of information, warnings, fines, etc) on meat and poultry processors who were:
  – Operating without the necessary inspection; and/or
  – Part of a foodborne illness outbreak investigation (usually the source)
Expectations for performance

• Generally set by USDA Food Safety Inspection Service
• Must maintain “Equal To” status to keep 50% Federal Grant match (currently $1.1 million)
• Program performance standards woven into USDA Requirements
Performance Standards

- Statutory
- Inspection
- Lab Sampling
- Training and Staffing
- Humane Slaughter

- Compliance
- Economic
- Fiscal
- Civil Rights
Staffing Expectations

• 100% coverage of all inspections each day that they operate
  – Every animal that is slaughtered under inspection
  – Once per day during processing

• USDA has stated over 90% completion rate of inspections is considered acceptable
How well are we doing?

- Depends on:
  - Inspector resource availability
  - The number of plants demanding inspection
  - The location of current and prospective plants

- When a plant is demanding inspection, the program must weigh these factors against program performance
Effects on Custom Inspection

• Too early to tell (numbers available by the end of September)
• Expect some significant gaps in coverage of assigned inspections
• Custom inspections 2\textsuperscript{nd} priority but are every bit as important food safety and sanitation-wise
Why is the trend what it is?

• Had to discontinue 2 student worker positions and 3 part-time inspector positions to meet budget constraints
• Currently holding 1 position open (Northeastern MN) to keep budget within dollars available – hope to hire beginning in October (Federal Fiscal Year start)
Meeting Inspection Demand

• When a plant wants inspection they inquire with us…
  – Currently we are trying to incorporate plants when we can
  – Almost all prospective plants are waiting
  – Current plants want to expand slaughter inspection – we cannot staff additional slaughter inspection at this time
% of Inspection Demand Met by the Program

% of Inspection Needs Being Served

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Current Waiting List

• Approximately 1 out of every 4 plants demanding inspection does not have it
• Some are already operating…compliance cases
• Working on calculating FTE’s needed to cover the list
Is anyone better off?

• Food safety wise
  – Compliance investigations
  – Inspection results

• Economically
  – Need better data
Percent of Establishments Identified with Critical Violations

- FFY 2011:
- FFY 2012:
- FFY 2013:
- FFY 2014:

% with Critical on Audit
Where are we heading?

• Due to staffing costs, if no additional funding is acquired for the next biennium (2 fiscal years), we expect:
  – Possible layoff of one staff position
  – Additional difficulty meeting the daily inspection requirement (even poorer performance)
  – Continued difficulty in allowing new plants under inspection or having existing plants expand
What do you expect from the Minnesota Meat and Poultry Program?
What inspection needs do you see?
How well are we doing in meeting them?
What ideas do you have to help us “turn the curve”?

Improve our ability to meet demand and maintain performance standards
Ideas

• Some items should be Low – cost, No – cost
• Others may take significant action to produce change
A Call to Action!

• How do our stakeholders fit into RBA at MDA and the Meat Inspection Program?
The Legislative Process

1. Programs make proposal to Commissioner’s Office or Agency Heads

2. Commissioner’s Office Reviews, forwards the proposals they support to the Governor’s Office

3. Governor’s Office Reviews, includes the proposals they support to the Governor’s Budget

October 15, 2014

Sometime after the Budget Forecast/Election
The Alternative

- Work with individual legislators to promote, author, & support increased funding levels for specific initiatives
- MDA staff can assist with providing facts, etc; however we cannot actively solicit