

**MN Meat & Poultry Inspection Program Overview & Budget Needs**  
**September 3, 2014**  
**University of Minnesota, 385 ANSCI/Vet Med Bldg**

**Present:** Jan Joannides, Jenny Pierquet, John Mesko, Curt Zimmerman, Erin Shaw, Rob King, Jane Jewett, Wayne Monsen, Wayne Martin, Kathy Draeger, Mike Lilja, Ryan Cox, Dr. Nicole Nesser, Jennifer Stepes, Lisa Wetzel, via phone – Kathy Zeman & Thom Peterson

**Notes**

1. Could we have more regional, part-time staff to cover the state? – State response: We have used cross-training to have inspectors from other areas within DFID do meat inspection in the past; however some of those program areas have budget issues as well and do not have staff available anymore for meat inspections.
2. Is AURI Survey Report done? What were the results? Kathy D was checking on this and will forward.
3. Ryan Pesch did an Economic Impact Analysis on Farm to School. – Jane said she could forward this.
4. Need MAMP to weigh in on this issue/topic – Jon Christenson.
5. Rob King & Gigi's report on Regional Food Systems – Jane was going to forward as well
6. SFA & Local Foods can poll members about unmet needs.
7. Can we poll where animal producers are at?
8. Still need plants to be at or close to capacity for processing in order to cash flow their operations.
9. Poultry has very few options for Equal 2 or USDA processing in MN, especially in greater MN.
10. As a producer, they may be willing to pay \$10/head to assist in funding state inspection, if it meant they knew they would have somewhere close to process their livestock.
11. Is the State committed to a Regional Food system? If so, having accessible Equal 2 meat & poultry inspection is an integral piece of that.
12. There is a public good to quality inspection and working to keep our food system safe.
13. 100% of requested inspection should be covered vs. 75%
14. We need staff available for education and outreach to the public, producers and processors.
15. Why are there big geographic gaps in processing plants? Seem to be clustered around the I-94 corridor.
16. Regional Partnerships study should be conducted on local meat processing and its effect on the local economy. We would need to request money to do this.
17. Study or survey, how many local farmers have scaled back animal production due to a lack of local and/or accessible meat processors?

18. Local Farmers Unions need to develop resolutions to add this issue to their platforms so that it can be put on the MN Farmer's Union platform. Kathy D was doing this in Big Stone County, can view on the Facebook page.