

# The US Food Safety System

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# Federal food-related regulatory programs

- 12 Agencies -- CFSAN, FSIS, EPA, NMFS are primary; others include AMS, GIPSA, APHIS, CDC, FTC, BATF, Customs; these deal variously with monitoring, surveillance, inspection, enforcement, outbreak management, research, and education
- 35 statutes
- 28 House and Senate committees
- More than 50 interagency agreements and working groups
- And there are federal-state programs, international treaties and agreements, voluntary programs, and on and on

# Where the US food safety system falls short

- Poor integration among 12 agencies
- Inadequate federal/state/local integration
- Absence of focused leadership
- Conflicting missions
- Inadequate surveillance
- Inconsistent, uneven, archaic statutes
- Skimpy resources
- Limited consumer knowledge
- Poor adherence to minimum standards

# Examples of Overlap

## » FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Monitoring/Surveillance: CDC; CSFAN (FDA)
- Risk Assessment: CFSAN (FDA); ARS (USDA)
- Research: CSFAN, NCTR (FDA); ARS, CSREES (USDA)
- Inspection/Enforcement: CFSAN (FDA); CSREES, ARS (USDA)
- Education: CFSAN (FDA); CSREES, ARS (USDA)

## » SEAFOOD

- Monitoring/Surveillance: CDC; CFSAN (FDA); NMFS (NOAA)
- Risk Assessment: CFSAN (FDA), NMFS (NOAA); ARS (USDA)
- Research: CVM, CFSAN (FDA), ARS, CSREES (USDA); NMFS (NOAA)
- Inspection/Enforcement: ORA, CFSAN (FDA), NMFS (NOAA)
- Education: CFSAN/FDA, CSREES, ARS (USDA); NMFS (NOAA)

# EXAMPLES OF OVERLAP (cont'd)

## Pesticide Residues

Monitoring/Surveillance: CDC; CFSAN (FDA); FSIS (USDA)

Risk Assessment: OPPTS (EPA); AMS; ARS, ERS, NASS (USDA)

Research: ORD (EPA); ARS, CSREES (USDA); CFSAN(FDA)

Inspection/Enforcement: CFSAN,CVM, ORA (FDA); FSIS, ARS (USDA); OECA (EPA)

Education: CFSAN (FDA); CSREES. ARS (USDA)

Congress should establish, by statute, a unified and central framework for managing food safety programs, one that is headed by a single official and which has the responsibility and control of resources for all federal food safety activities, including outbreak management, standard-setting, inspection, monitoring, surveillance, risk assessment, enforcement, research, and education

# Some other calls for major reorganization of food safety responsibilities

- 1949 Hoover Commission
- 1968 DHEW reorganization directive
- 1969 White House conference
- 1969 Malek report
- 1970 GAO
- 1972 Nader report
- 1972 Senate hearings
- 1977 Senate committee
- 1978 White House study
- 1980 Crawford speech

- 1991 Edwards committee
- 1992 GAO
- 1993 Senate bill
- 1993 National performance review
- 1993 Safe Food Coalition
- 1993 Senate bill
- 1994 House and Senate bills
- 1997 House and Senate bills
- 2005 GAO

