Cooperative State Inspection: How Is it Working Out?

February 4, 2014

www.nichemeatprocessing.org
Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program
From FSIS’ Perspective

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Office of Field Operations
The Food Safety and Inspection Service protects consumers by ensuring that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.
Legislative Authorities

- Federal Meat Inspection Act
- Poultry Products Inspection Act
- Egg Products Inspection Act
- Humane Methods of Slaughter Act
An inspection force of approximately 7,600 personnel deployed throughout the United States and U.S. territories.

Inspectors present in nearly 6,000 plants every day.

Inspectors present at various import stations every day.
Outreach and Partnership Division

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Our Mission

- Outreach activities
- Resources and outreach to small and very small plants.
- Technical expertise, information and advice to small and very small plant owners and operators
  - Regulations, Policies and Systems.
- FSIS cooperative activities with State agencies
State Program Liaison

- State Cooperative MPI Agreements
- Tallmadge-Aiken Agreements
- Cross Utilization Agreements
- Custom Exempt Agreements
- Egg Products Inspection Agreement
- Cooperative Interstate Shipment Agreements
Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program

- Provision in the 2008 Farm Bill
- September 2009, proposed regulation published
Final Interstate Shipment Rule

- State plants required to comply with Federal standards
- State inspectors covering selected plants receive “same as” training
- Meat and poultry products produced under the program bear an official Federal mark of inspection
- FSIS provides oversight and enforcement of the program
- FSIS required to reimburse States for at least 60% of their eligible costs related to inspection of selected establishments
State Participation in CIS

- States interested in participating in the program need to be “the same as” FSIS’ inspection services.

- State personnel to complete FSIS-sponsored training in Federal inspection methodology.

- The laboratory services must be capable of producing the same results as FSIS’ laboratories.
Establishment Participation in CIS

- Participation in the program is limited to plants that employ 25 or fewer employees on average.

- Rule contains standards for determining a plant’s average number of employees based on Small Business Administration’s methods.

- Establishments apply through the State.

- State makes determination to recommend establishment.

- FSIS coordinates with State to select establishments for CIS.
Federal Oversight

• FSIS appoints a “selected establishment coordinator” (SEC) to provide oversight and enforcement of the program.

• SEC responsible for verifying that selected plants receive necessary inspection services from designated personnel

• The SEC authorized to initiate any appropriate enforcement action provided for in the Agency’s Rules of Practice regulations

• SECs to file quarterly reports on the status of the selected establishment under their jurisdiction
• Agreement Signed with Ohio – August 9, 2012

• Agreement Signed with North Dakota – January 11, 2013

• Agreement Signed with Wisconsin – January 14, 2013
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February 4, 2013

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Cooperative Interstate Shipment
Niche Products Webinar

February 2014
The Division of Meat Inspection is responsible for regulating 296 meat and poultry establishments statewide. Meat inspection staff members are responsible for verifying that each establishment produces safe, wholesome, and properly labeled products in a sanitary environment.
History

Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program

Why was Ohio interested?

• An on-going issue for decades (since mid-80s)

• Level the playing field for all producers

• OSU study supported the value of interstate meat shipment
Getting Started

2008
- Farm Bill Passed

2011
- Letter of Interest
- Letter Acknowledged
- 1-2 Conference Calls per Week
Getting Started

2012

- Developing Same As Rules
- Survey to Ohio Meat Processors
- Applications Sent to Interested Processors
- Food Safety Assessments Perform
- Final Cooperative Agreement Signed August 9
- Ohio first state to enter the Cooperative Agreement
Getting Started

2012
- ODA Nominates 7 Plants to FSIS
- FSIS Initial Reviews
- All 7 Establishments Accepted

2013
- FSIS Quarterly Reviews
Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program

Ohio
Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program
Ohio
Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program
Lou’s Sausage
Lou’s Sausage

“We learned a lot from the old-timers and their ways. They laid the foundation.”
Lou’s Sausage
Lou’s Sausage
Lou’s Sausage
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Cooperative Interstate Shipment in North Dakota

Dr. Robert Maddock
Extension Meats Specialist
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND
History

• North Dakota was one of the early states to implement CIS
• North Dakota has a low population
• Access primarily to Minnesota markets, but also other regional metropolitan areas
• No T-A plants in ND
History of CIS in North Dakota

• A combination of local meat processor and livestock producers have asked for interstate shipment for several years
• The ND Meat Processors Association lobbied for the program as well
• ND Meat Inspection Service works closely with small processors to address needs
• A small program in a small state
Process and Challenges

• In ND state inspection is still relatively new
• Most regulations were written post HACCP implementation
• ND is basically operating under federal guidelines
• Application was time consuming, but not excessively difficult
Current Status of CIS in ND

• Started with one plant
• Concerned about federal oversight
• Interest among our small meat processors
• The most asked question, why not just go federal?
• Most of our small processors aren’t looking to grow much more, time constraints, labor shortages, and an current excess of paperwork
Questions?

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Director, EIAO
Meat and Poultry Inspection Division
Indiana Board of Animal Health