



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250

November 12, 2021

Mrs. Rebecca Vought, Chair
Conference for Food Protection

Thank you for supporting USDA/FSIS's participation in the 2020 Conference for Food Protection (CFP) Biennial Meeting. The USDA values the opportunity to continue to support the CFP's mission, and to contribute to the success of the Conference.

The USDA would like to provide the following responses to the two conference recommendations raised in your letter dated September 28, 2021.

Issue III-015 – Committee to Update CFP Guidance on Beef Ground at Retail

This recommendation requests the creation of a committee to revise the CFP grinding records guidance document and that the committee should include members from all constituencies in the CFP, including USDA personnel as a consultant. FSIS is pleased the conference recommended that a committee be convened and has provided a consultant to the committee as requested. FSIS looks forward to consulting to the committee to help ensure that the guidance is consistent with FSIS record keeping requirements ([9 CFR 320.1](#)) and promote the adoption of safe grinding practices to help prevent illness from raw beef, ground at retail food establishments.

Issue III-035 – Amend Food Code: Clarify Language for Disinfection of Food-Contact Surfaces

This recommendation requests that a committee be formed to address the term DISINFECTANTS in the Food Code, Food Code Annex, and with the recommended constituencies, including federal partners like FDA, EPA, USDA, and CDC. FSIS appreciates the conference's inclusion of federal partners including USDA; however, FSIS does not approve or list approved sanitizers. Sanitizers are reviewed and approved by the EPA and the FDA. FSIS establishments are required to use cleaning compounds, sanitizing agents, processing aids, and other chemicals that are safe and effective under the conditions of use. Establishments are required to use, handle, and store such chemicals in a manner that will not adulterate product or create insanitary conditions. Documentation substantiating the safety of a chemical's use in a food processing environment must be available to FSIS inspection program employees for review. For these reasons, FSIS does not intend to provide a consultant to this committee but looks forward to reviewing the committee report.

Thank you again for your continued support of USDA/FSIS's involvement at the CFP, and the Agency appreciates the opportunity to inform meeting participants on our initiatives. The USDA will work on the Council's recommendations in the coming months and be prepared to report the committee findings and recommendations to the 2022 Biennial Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel A. Edelstein".

Rachel A. Edelstein
Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD)