



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

August 31, 2018

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C.
20250

M. David Lawrence, Chair
Conference for Food Protection

Thank you for supporting USDA/FSIS's involvement in the 2018 Conference of Food Protection (CFP) Biennial Meeting. USDA values the opportunity to respond to the 2018 conference recommendations.

The following are the responses to the two conference recommendations raised in your letter dated May 21, 2018.

Issue 2018-I-012

This recommendation requests that USDA work with FDA to develop language in Paragraph 3-602.11(B) Food Labels that reflects 9 CFR Part 317 Labeling, Marking Devices and Containers as it pertains to mechanically tenderized and injected meat. USDA/FSIS concurs with this recommendation. As FDA begins updating the Food Code to reflect the 2018 conference recommendations, USDA will provide clarifying language and support to FDA to update the Food Code. This response also applies to Issue 2018-I-013.

Issue 2018-III-021

This recommendation requests that USDA and FDA develop a Not Ready-to-Eat (NRTE) and Ready-to-Eat (RTE) Food guidance document for and report the status of its development at the 2020 Biennial CFP Meeting. USDA/FSIS concurs with this recommendation. FDA is currently leading the development of a draft copy of this guidance document, including definitions of RTE and NRTE products; USDA looks forward to reviewing and adding information regarding meat and poultry products to the draft as it is being developed. FSIS and FDA will report the status at the 2020 Biennial Meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of FSIS/USDA participation at the CFP. The Agency appreciates the opportunity to inform meeting participants on our initiatives and will work on the Council's recommendations in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Roberta F Wagner

Roberta Wagner
Assistant Administrator
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Food Safety and Inspection Service