

Conference for Food Protection Executive Board Meeting Committee Report

This report must be submitted to your Council Chair for review so that it can be approved and submitted to the Executive Board via the Executive Director 30 days before each Executive Board Meeting (held in April and August of each year). The report must be accompanied by an updated committee roster on the Excel spreadsheet provided (Committee Members Template) located here: <http://www.foodprotect.org/work/>.

COMMITTEE NAME:

Inspections Form Scoring Committee has been formed as outlined in the Conference for Food Protection (CFP) approved issue 2008 II-041.

COUNCIL II

DATE OF REPORT 07-19-2011

SUBMITTED BY:

Chair – Bill Flynn

COMMITTEE CHARGE(S):

The CFP recommends the creation of a Scoring Ad-Hoc Committee charged with the following:

- Conduct research to:
 - Determine the most common **Foodservice Establishment** scoring systems.
- Conduct academic research to:
 - Determine the most effective **Foodservice Establishment** scoring systems.
 - Determine the most effective way to communicate the scores to the public.
- Report the committee's findings back to the conference at the Biennial meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT:

In 2010 our original researcher from Loma Linda University withdrew their committed resources due to a downturn in the economy. Subsequent interviews with potential researchers from University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Kansas State University, and North Carolina State University determined that the committee charge was broad enough that it would be advantageous for multiple researchers to work together.

The original goal of developing a grant application for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program – National Integrated Food Safety Initiative was abandoned due to researcher turnover in 2011. Instead of the grant the committee sourced volunteer research from Dr. Barbara Almanza from Purdue, Dr. Margaret Binkley from Ohio State University, and private industry consultants. The outcomes have been promising.

I. Scoring Committee Working Assumptions: Scoring can have a positive impact on public health by reducing the risk factors associated with foodborne disease if:

- The committee can raise approximately \$75,000 in resources to modify a web-based database.
- The health jurisdictions program includes inspector and industry training.
- The scoring system is easy for the health inspector, the public and regulated industry to understand.
- The inspector's performance is standardized on an ongoing basis.
- The jurisdiction is using a risk based food code that required effective control of CDC risk factors.
- The health department regularly evaluates their inspection program results using a consistent and effective methodology.
- The public receives the health inspection report scores in a way that allows them to make an informed decision about where they would like to eat.
- Restaurants, grocery stores, institutional kitchens, etc. need to be evaluated differently.

II. Information Gatherers Objectives:

- Collect inspection reports of jurisdictions that score inspection reports from random health jurisdictions using public disclosure systems or freedom of information act.
- Organize a list of conveniently accessed health jurisdiction reports.
- Organize health department scoring systems based on the size of a jurisdiction.
- Source a web-based database to house health inspection data and scoring normalization.

III. Practitioners Objectives:

- Utilizing actual health jurisdiction forms, conduct standardized inspections using the five most common health jurisdiction scoring formats.
- Using the latest version of CFP inspection report form, conduct standardized inspections using a normalized scoring technique based on percent of 100.

IV. Researcher Objectives:

- Conduct literature review/ research to identify communication techniques that consumers, regulators, and the industry can mutually understand.
- Develop consumer and industry survey instruments and work with CSPI and NRA on conducting surveys to targeted populations.
- Analyze the results of the survey instrument and write a research paper with findings, recommendations, and conclusions.

V. Scoring Committee Accomplishments:

- A web-based database has been created to gather, report, and analyze the committee's information. The cost was absorbed through private donations, fundraisers, and volunteer programmers from graduate students.
- 75 unique health jurisdiction forms have been gathered for analysis.
- A list of conveniently accessed health jurisdiction reports has been organized on the database.
- The list of health department scoring systems organized by the size of a jurisdiction is 75% complete.
- The database has been program to normalize scores on percent of 100 as test. Once researchers determine the most successful method of reporting scores, that system will be utilized to normalize health jurisdiction scores.
- Approximately 100 standardized inspections have been completed comparing the scoring results of 5 different health jurisdiction inspections forms.

VI. Scoring Committee Challenges:

- Creating and programming the database consumed many hours and most of the committee resources.
- Information gathering, in a non-web based environment, allowed for inefficiencies when gathering the results from random locations across the country.
- Gathering the information while maintaining anonymity for the subject restaurants, could compromise the ability to report results.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND DATES:

8/26/2010	Co-Chair meeting
10/1/2010	Committee survey distributed
10/26/2010	Committee survey completed
11/10/2010	Sub-committee (x3) assignment
11/29/2010	Co-Chair meeting
12/16/2010	Committee conference call
1/5/2011	Sub-committee #1 conference call
1/12/2011	Sub-committee #2 conference call
2/15/2011	Sub-committee #1 conference call
2/12/2011	Sub-committee #2 conference call
3/8/2011	Sub-committee #1 conference call
3/15/2011	Sub-committee #2 conference call
4/14/2011	Sub-committee #1 conference call
4/21/2011	Sub-committee #2 conference call
5/24/2011	Committee conference call