

**Food Regulation and Nutrition Committee
Chairman Nathan Rudgers, New York**

**2003 Annual Meeting
Boise, Idaho
Committee Report**

Summary of Committee Action:

Report from the States. Committee members reported on state efforts and activities related to food safety, homeland security planning, and state budgets.

Federal Strategies on Food Safety and Security. The Committee heard from USDA-FSIS and FDA officials on federal agency activities on food safety and security.

Dr. Garry McKee, USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) Administrator reported that FSIS has reorganized its operations to better coordinate homeland security, public health and food safety activities. The agency recently developed guidelines for transportation and distribution of meat, poultry, and egg products. Dr. McKee also encouraged state departments of agriculture to take advantage of a new FSIS Biosecurity Training Program, which is focused on prevention actions, rather than response

Dr. Robert Brackett, Director, Office of Food Safety & Security, FDA, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) outlined the agency's activities to protect the food system infrastructure. FDA has developed guidance documents related to food imports, food processing, and the dairy sector. Guidance on additional food system topics are being developed. FDA is also implementing several new regulations under the Bioterrorism Act for registration, record-keeping, and import requirements for food companies and processors.

Discussion & Follow Up from the Federal-State Food Safety & Security Summit. The Committee discussed follow-up plans from the February 4 summit with state health directors and senior administration officials. The NASDA-AFDO report, "*Recommendations For Enhancing Food Safety and Security*," has been distributed to congressional and administration officials, along with an AFDO survey on distribution of federal bioterrorism funding to states. NASDA is continuing educational efforts to promote additional food safety/security funding for state departments of agriculture. NASDA is also seeking opportunities to testify at future congressional hearings. Discussions are continuing with USDA and FDA officials to hold a follow-up Federal-State Summit.

Presentation on the Agriculture Security Program. The Committee heard a presentation from Michael Steinle on a new management system that has been developed to address various risks to food producers, processors, products and customers.

Report on the Homeland Security Department Process on Food and Agriculture Security. Representatives from NASDA's affiliate organization, the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), outlined the national process being overseen by the new Department of Homeland

Security (DHS) and the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) state grant program. John Hoffman, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and John Tilden, Michigan Department of Agriculture, emphasized the importance of the state vulnerability assessments, which are to be completed by December, and the critical need to include food and agriculture in these state plans.

Policy Amendments:

Withdrawn amendment (#14) offered by the Dairy Division of NASDA, to require FDA to determine whether a dairy product meets U.S. sanitary standards, pending further discussion with FDA.

Approved amendment (#15) offered by the Dairy Division of NASDA, to update policy statements on cooling temperature requirements for canned milk.

Approved amendment (#16) offered by Nathan Rudgers (NY), recommending that state and local agencies receive appropriate security clearances.

Approved amendment (#17) offered by Nathan Rudgers (NY), recommending that a voluntary Model Food Security Code be developed to ensure states have the necessary tools to close gaps identified through risk assessments.

Action Items:

Approved an action item offered by the Dairy Division of NASDA, to suggest periodic conference calls to discuss and review dairy program initiatives.

Approved an action item offered by Susan Combs (TX) on behalf of SASDA, to encourage federal and state officials to support initiatives that promote healthy activity and improved nutrition in schools.

Approved an action item offered by SASDA, to support increased funding for the Farmers Market Nutrition Programs.

Approved an action item offered by Darryl Little (AR) and Bob Odom (LA) on behalf of SASDA, requesting NASDA to develop a policy statement on contracts for state inspection programs for meat, poultry and egg products.

Approved an action item offered by Nathan Rudgers (NY), to submit the NASDA-AFDO white paper and recommendations on food safety and security to the NASDA Food and Agriculture Security Task Force for their consideration in developing a comprehensive policy on homeland security.

Committee Work Plan & Priority Issues:

- Carry out the action items described above, communicate the information to appropriate officials and organizations, and provide reports to NASDA members/affiliates.
- Continue work to promote the NASDA-AFDO recommendations on food safety and security, and seek opportunities to testify before Congress on these issues.
- Work with USDA-FSIS and FDA to organize and plan a follow-up summit on Federal-State Food Safety and Security.
- Continue legislative efforts to achieve interstate meat shipment of meat.
- Identify and seek food security resources and funds, with particular emphasis on the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) state grant programs and process.