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ASSOCIATION OF FOOD AND DRUG OFFICIALS

RESOLVING & PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ISSUES

AFDO Model Code of Practice for Fresh Produce at the Farm and Packing House

Doug Saunders, Deputy Director
Division of Animal and Food Industry Services
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
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BACKGROUND

- Approached by tomato industry during tomato safety forum November, 2006
- Industry concern: potential patchwork of state/local laws and regulations

Association of Food and Drug Officials AFDO

- Mission: to foster uniformity in the adoption of food safety laws, rules and regulations

AFDO BOARD CONSIDERATIONS

- General recognition that size/scope of FBIs associated w/ fresh produce are unacceptable
- Other commodities implicated in outbreaks
- Existing guidance dated
- No regulations at farm and packing houses
- Experience in developing Model Codes

WHY Model Code?

- Framework for national consistency in regulatory approach
- Wider acceptance as a more collaborative work product
- Broader implementation especially at medium/smaller farms/packing houses



WHY AFDO Model Code?

- Quicker than federal rule making
- More easily modified
- Open inclusive process
- Iterative, ongoing process – opportunity for periodic “ground truthing”
- As model code, provides mechanism for states/local authorities to address specific issues unique to that locale



Working Group Established

- Begin where GAPS leave off
- Pull from Commodity Specific Guidance Documents - issues, metrics, responses
- Code: BROAD language
- Companion “Hazards Guide” – “how to comply” document

WHO is Participating?

- States: FL (Aller as Chair), VA, CA, NC
- Federal: FDA, USDA
- Association of Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Standardization Agencies
- Academia
- CSPI, Consumer Federation of America



WHO is Participating?

- Industry: Western Growers Association, United Fresh Produce Association, Produce Marketers Association, GMA/FPA, National Restaurant Association, Florida Tomato Industry, Ag&Food Trans. Conf. of Am Trucking Assoc., Food Marketing Institute various commodity associations, others

Progress

- 3 meetings, 4 conference calls
- Approach: Broad language in Code, Specifics in “Hazards Control” Companion Document
- Nearly completed first draft of Code
 - Water
 - Manure/biosolids
 - Worker Health/hygiene



Progress

- Nearly completed first draft (cont'd)
 - Packing Facility Sanitation
 - Field Sanitation
 - Transportation
 - Record Keeping/Traceback



Next Steps

- “Public” Review this summer
- Begin Draft of Hazards Guide
- Completion Date ?????



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THANK YOU

2550 Kingston Road, York, PA 17402