

2018-2019 AFDO COMMITTEE CHARGES

Retail Food Committee

***Chair:** Angela Montalbano, NY Department of Agriculture & Markets, Brooklyn, NY

Chair: Adam Inman, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Manhattan, KS

Chair: Elizabeth Nutt, Tulsa Health Department

Charge 1: Maintain contact with CFP committees and identify opportunities for collaboration. Regularly request and maintain a listing of CFP committees and their members.

Charge 2: Work with other organizations involved in retail foods to develop and disseminate information to assist state and local retail food programs. Other organizations such as Conference for Food Protection (CFP), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and National Environmental Health Association (NEHA).

Charge 3: Construct a 2-hour committee session during the allotted committee time spot with a final agenda for submission no later than March 1, 2019.

Charge 4: Develop a webinar for retail program managers discussing the functions and responsibilities of the FDA Retail Program Specialists including how each area can provide support to state retail program managers.

Charge 5: Develop an illustrated book of scenarios demonstrating critical deficiencies and the same photo with non-critical deficiencies as a means of working with language barriers while explaining inspection results of corrective actions.

Charge 6: The amount of retail food sampling for pathogens has increased significantly over the past five years. Testing performed by state departments of agriculture, consumer protection, and health have resulted in a substantial amount of recalls. These recalls are sometimes difficult to enact quickly since the testing is done at the end user (retail) and not at the supplier or distribution level. Therefore, trace back to the supplier identifying lot codes causes delays initiating the recall. How the types of foods are chosen for testing would be interesting to discover since some of the testing has been done on frozen vegetables where cooking would destroy the pathogen of concern (Lm).

To better understand the motivation or purpose of this increase in retail microbiological sampling, it would be helpful if the AFDO retail committee could develop a survey that would examine and answer the following questions: We could use these questions or come up with different or additional ones.

- What states are performing pathogen testing on retail food products? For those states that respond yes to testing; What is the source of funding for the sampling program?
- How many samples are performed each year and what is the percent positive?
- What pathogens do you test for?
- Is the test always on packaged national brand items or is the store made product also tested?
- What is the purpose of the testing?
- What is the established procedure for positive test results? Do you communicate with the relevant federal agencies, with the retailers and manufacturers, and do you communicate with the relevant state agencies where the food product was made?
- What criteria do you use to determine what foods are tested? Are the criteria a risk-ranking based assessment?
- Would you change your program for testing based on information provided by federal agencies?

**Responsible for submission of reports*

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- Would you consider changing your testing program to select food items that are still under the control of the manufacturers (or at least at retail distribution facilities) to allow for withdrawals of products and limit consumer exposure?

Based on the amount of states who test and the answers given on the survey, the retail committee might make recommendations to standardize the process of testing. This would provide valuable information for both the states performing the tests and retailers who have to respond to positive samples.

**Responsible for submission of reports*