IFPTI Fellowship Cohort V: Research Presentation

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2015-2016
National Survey of Wild Mushroom Regulation

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Funding for this program was made possible, in part, by the Food and Drug Administration through grant 5U54FD004324-05; views expressed in written materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the United States Government.
Foraging for wild mushrooms is a popular practice

Over 5,000 species of mushrooms are presumed to be found worldwide

Mushroom exposures can lead to severe illness and death

Image source: Dr. James Scott, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center
• Limited regulations in place

• Approved source
There is no published research in peer-reviewed food safety literature regarding regulatory approaches used by state food safety agencies related to regulation of foraged wild mushrooms at retail in the United States.
1. What are the existing regulatory approaches regarding foraged wild mushrooms sold at retail in the United States?

2. What resources do state food safety agencies have available for them to identify edible mushrooms that are foraged from the wild and offered at retail in the United States?
Methodology

• Survey

• Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH); Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)

• AFDO Wild Mushroom Sub-Committee

• 21 questions

• 2-week timeframe

• Follow-up
Managers/Administrators/ Directors of Food Program

- 50 states contacted
- Contact lists used:
  - AFDO’s Directory of State and Local Officials (DSLO)
  - AFDO Wild Mushroom Sub-Committee
  - Association of Food and Drug Officials of the Southern States (AFDOSS)
  - IFPTI Cohort V Fellows
- Initial contact by phone
- Secondary contact by email
Responses

• 49 states (98% response rate)
• 9 states – respondents from two agencies
• 62% – regulate wild mushrooms
• Nearly half (45%) – 2009 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code
• Morels and Chanterelles
Results (continued)

- Licensed wild mushroom sellers
- Certified wild mushroom identifiers
- Approved wild mushroom experts
- Prohibited the sale at retail
- Other
- Consumer Advisory

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Specific Regulatory Criteria

- Permitted wild mushroom seller: 16%
- Buyer specifications: 16%
- Consumer advisory: 6%
- Notify health authorities: 6%
- Other: 9%

Results (continued)
### Regulatory Requirements

- **Criteria – Approved wild mushroom experts**: 32%
- **List – Approved wild mushroom experts**: 23%
- **List – Safe species of Wild Mushrooms**: 23%
- **Harvester records**: 26%
- **Volume restrictions**: 16%

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Results (continued)

Types of Resources

- Other: 10%
- Academia: 30%
- Committee: 30%
- Certified wild mushroom identifiers: 30%

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Conclusions

• Regulatory approaches for foraged wild mushrooms vary in the U.S.

• Different strategies were used for establishing resources for identification of foraged wild mushrooms.
1. Develop guidelines for regulation.

2. Communicate and partner with other states.

3. Develop common criteria to determine qualifications for the approval of wild mushroom experts.

4. Maintain a list of safe edible species of foraged wild mushrooms.
Acknowledgements

- R. Chris Rustin, DrPH, Environmental Health Section Director, Department of Public Health (DPH), Georgia
- Mr. Chris Kumnick, Deputy Director, Environmental Health Section, DPH, Georgia
- Mr. Cameron Wiggins, Past Food Program Director, Environmental Health Section, DPH, Georgia
- Ms. Charlene Bruce
- Dr. Paul Dezendorf, Subject Matter Expert, IFPTI
- IFPTI staff
- IFPTI Fellows – Cohort V

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Questions?

Image source: Jessica Wolf, http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca/

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