



# Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Sampling Team Exercises March – July 2019

Contributors: MDARD and FDA RRT



## Cyber Command

**Planning-**Based on shopping trends, STE planners identified the need to collect samples from major online retailers.

**Scope-** For the first time, STE samples were collected from traditional online-only retailers and online-only retailer and e-commerce websites.

Pesticide and Plant Pest Management (PPPM) ordered pig ears to test for Salmonella and insect repellent to test pesticide claims. Food and Dairy (FDD) ordered luster dust and edible glitter to test for heavy metals.

**Outcomes-** Cyber Command Task Force avoided duplicate samples and managed sample procurement, reports, sending samples directly to the MDARD Geagley lab, chain of custody, and follow-up.



## Pig Ears

**Investigation-** PPPM received notification of a multistate Salmonella outbreak from the RRT Epidemiologist and Department of Health and Human services (MDHHS). Based on the epidemiological hypothesis and multiple reports of ill households having puppies and pig ear exposure, PPPM targeted Pig Ears for sampling. These samples of pre-packaged pig ears analyzed by MDARD's Geagley Laboratory Microbiological Section were negative.

Based on new epidemiological updates, PPPM and FDD conducted joint aseptic sampling at two specific retailers reported by the ill cases. These samples were tested at MDARD lab and found positive for 6 Salmonella serotypes, leading to a recall. Another round of sampling found additional Salmonella and prompted an FDA Press Release, CDC Advisory, MDARD Consumer Advisory, and a nationwide recall.

**Planning-** Due to the ongoing investigation, PPPM and STE planners decided to utilize the STE to collect additional pig ear samples.

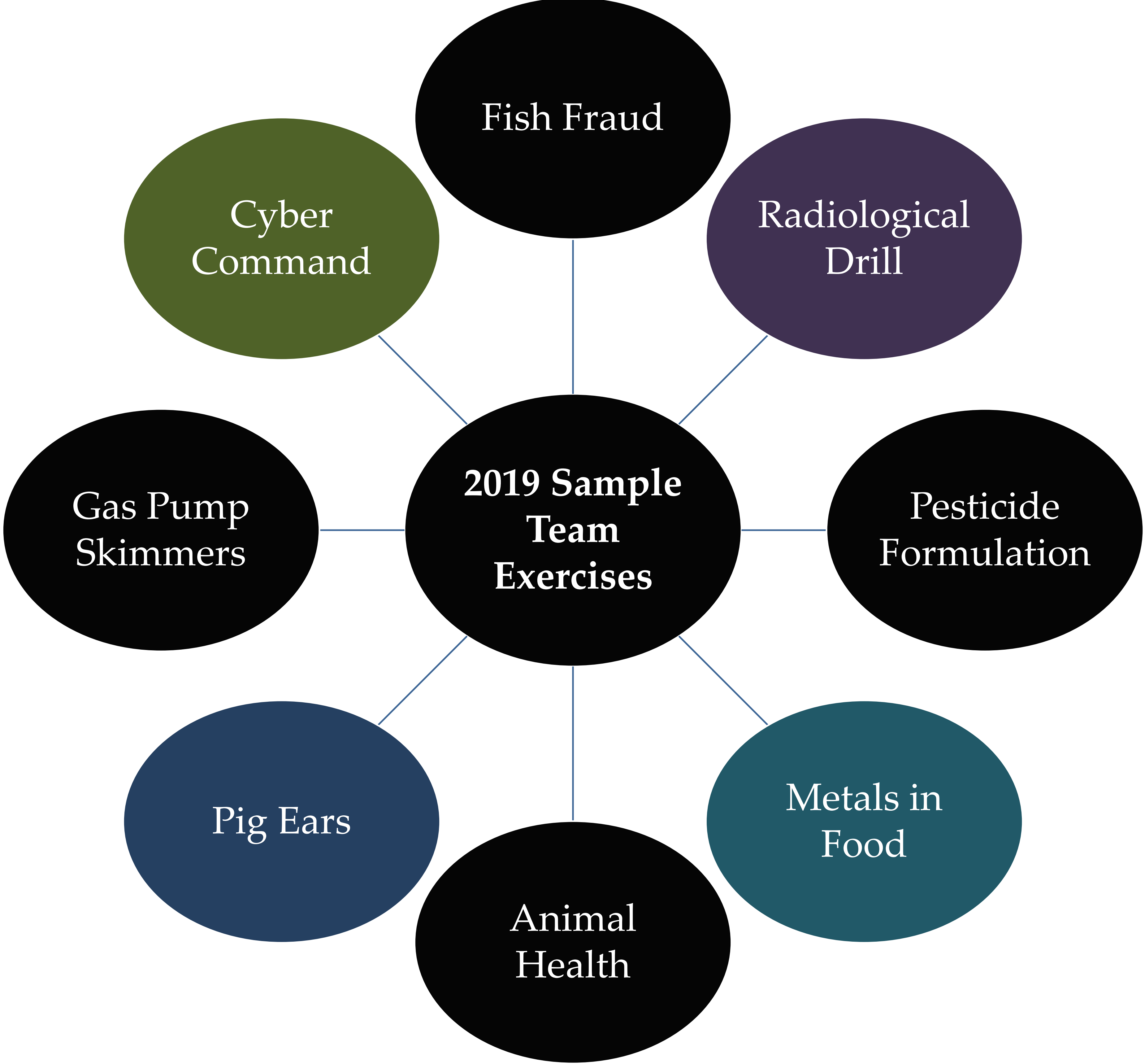
**Scope-** Field teams used aseptic techniques to collect bulk pig ear samples and cyber command purchased samples from online-only retailers. Samples were also obtained from a distributor in the area.

**Outcomes-** Field Team and Cyber Command teams collected 30 samples, 3 of those were positive samples leading to 3 more recalls.



MDARD Communications accompanied a field team to document sample collection for possible outreach or training opportunities.

## 2019 Sample Team Summary



## Radiological Drill

**Planning-** STE planners used this session to focus on Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) in preparation for the 2019 Power Plant Ingestion Pathway Exercise.

**Scope-** For the 1<sup>st</sup> time during STE, Field Teams received just in time training from Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.

Field Teams participated in hands-on collection of soil, “surface” water, milk, and vegetation samples in the “potentially contaminated” area in accordance with SOPs.

**Outcomes-** Field test of recently updated procedures.

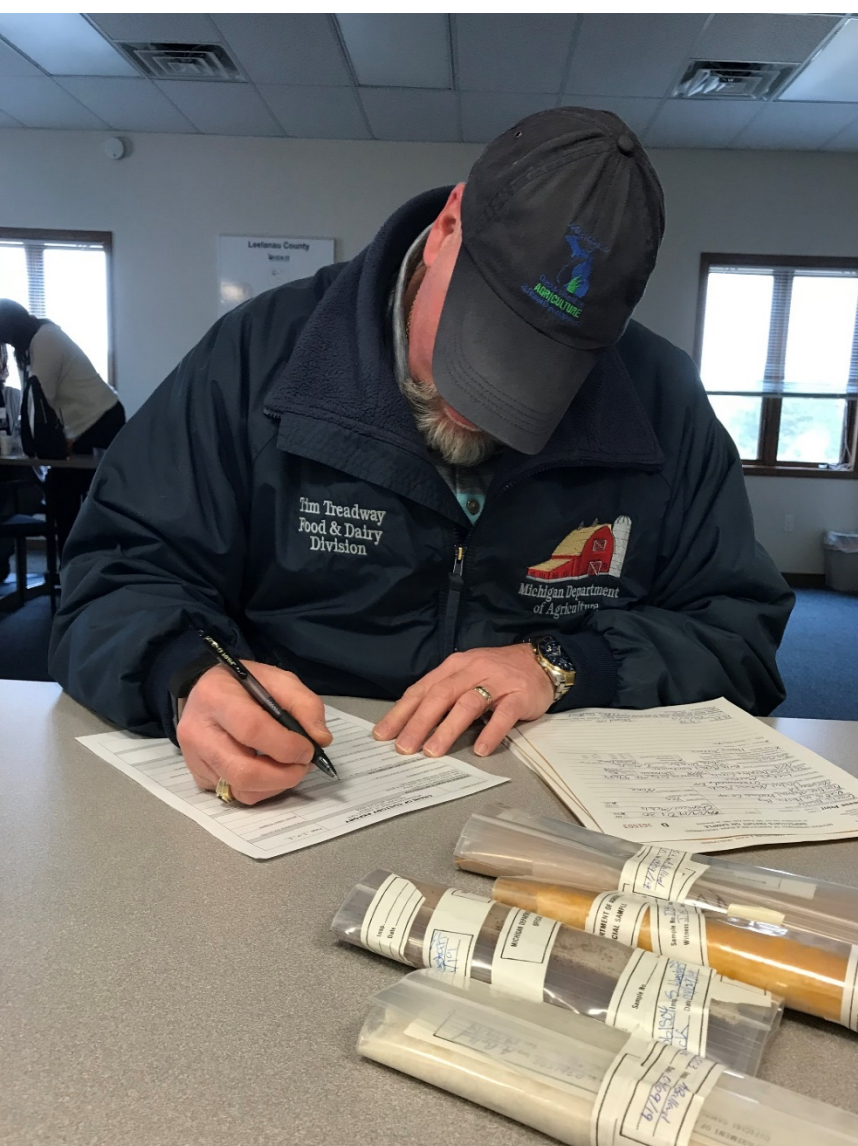
Field test of equipment utilized during actual REP sample collection, including exposure to dosimeters.

Prepared MDARD to lead and succeed in Radiological Emergency Preparedness Ingestion Pathway Exercise.

Successful demonstration of sampling techniques to FEMA evaluator.



## Metals in Food



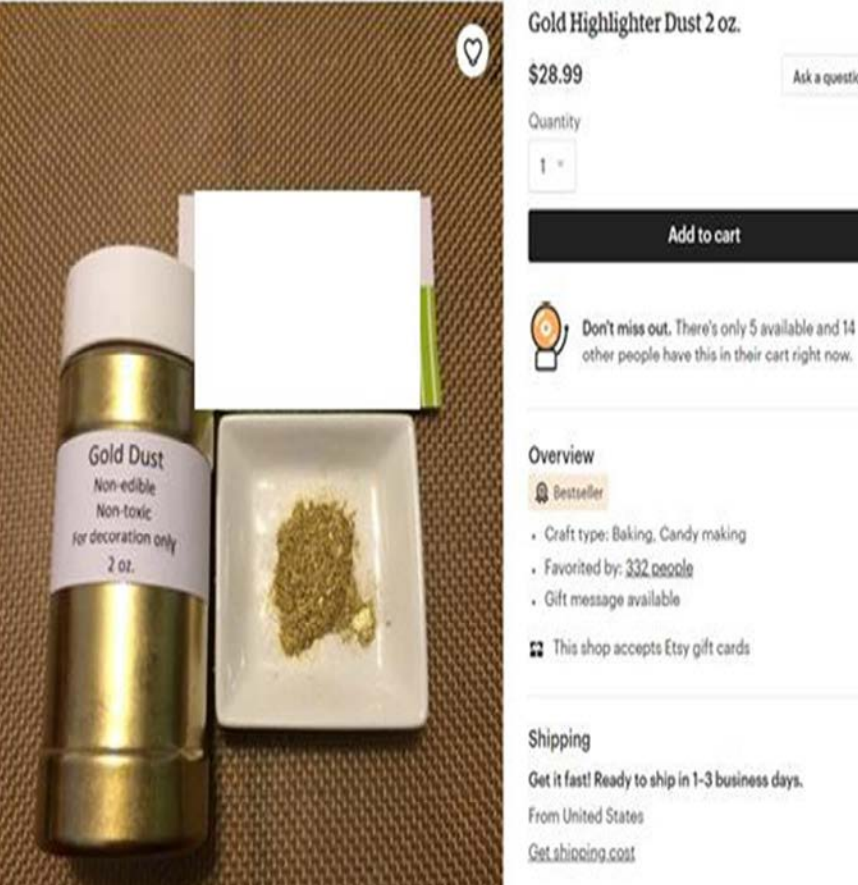
**Planning-** STE Planners identified the need to test for heavy metals in luster dust following the 2018 Rhode Island RRT report and spices following MI responses.

**Scope-** Teams collected a range of luster dust and bulk spices and sent to MDARD Geagley Lab Chemistry Section for testing.

RRT Toxicologist analyzed the results and shared with FDA and MDARD Food Labeling Specialist reviewed labels to verify approved ingredients.

**Outcomes-** Geagley Lab Chemistry Section tested new products and provided instructions to STE.

MDARD and FDA jointly responded to a cinnamon sample with 3.82 parts per million lead, more samples were collected by FDA, MDARD seized the product, and regulatory action was taken.



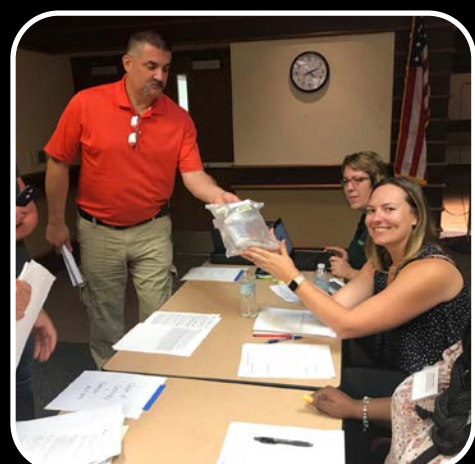
Total Samples Collected during STE	Total # of Samples	# of Field Samples	# of Cyber Samples
Traverse City – Spices	13	13	0
Traverse City – Luster dust	12	12	0
Warren – Spices	17	17	0
Warren – Luster dust	19	7	12
Bay City – Insect Repellents	44	22	22
Lansing – Fish Speciation	6	6	0
Lansing – Pig Ears	13	8	5
Taylor – Fish Speciation	4	4	0
Taylor – Pig Ears	2	2	0
Totals	130	91	39



**Planning-**consisted of multiple MDARD divisions that created exercise scenarios applicable to all participants, allowed several divisions to test procedures, and allowed participants to apply ICS.



**Scope-**included 8 Sessions and 300 unique participants from all MDARD Divisions, FDA, Local Health, State Police, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Natural Resources, and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy.



**Outcomes-**MDARD received, processed, and tested a range of products or methods for a variety of concerns to demonstrate capabilities, assist with future accreditation, evaluate marketplace risk, and test and improve the STE toolkit created in 2016.