



Minnesota Rapid Response Team FY 2019 Highlights

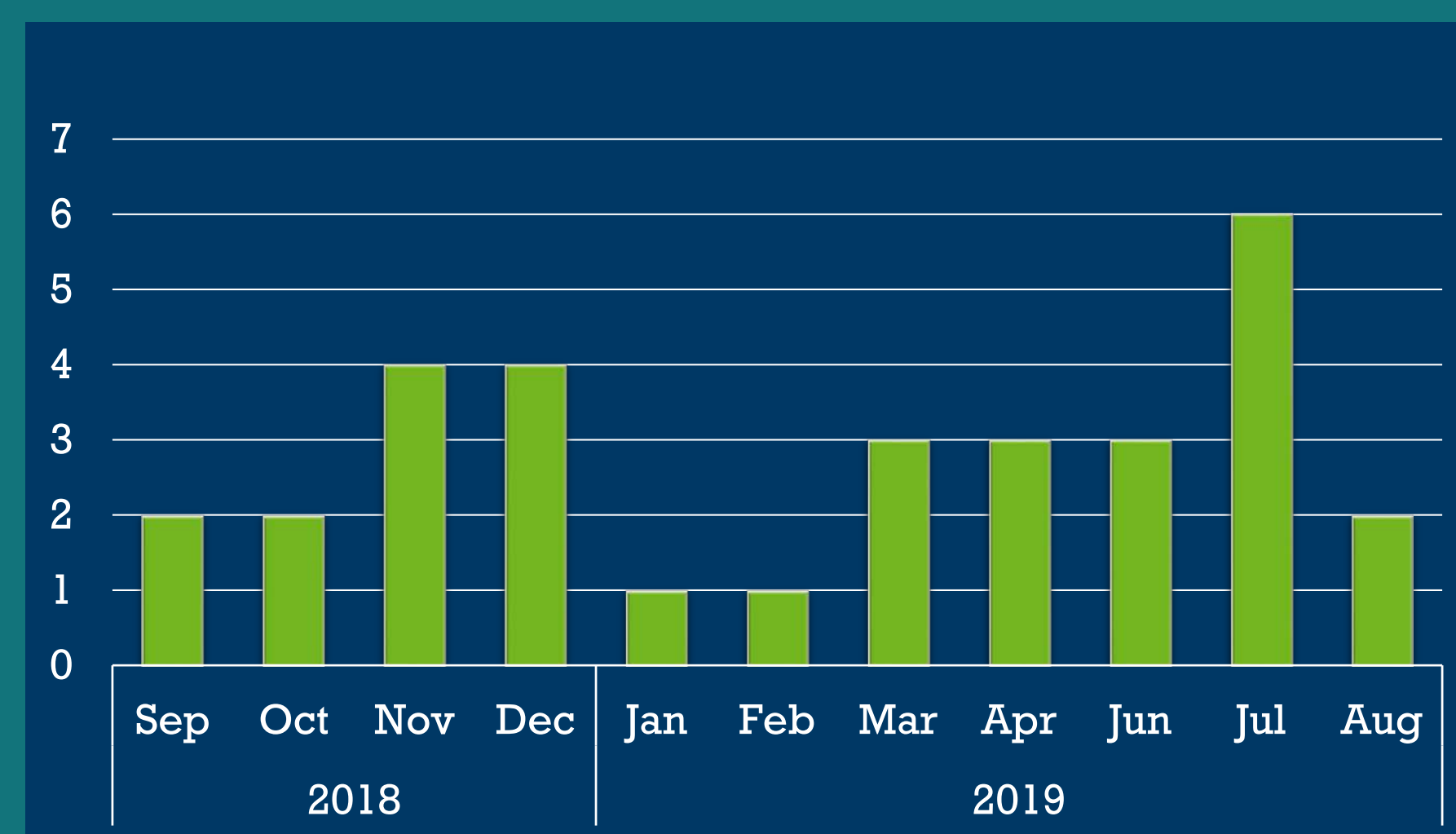


INVESTIGATIONS

by the numbers

31

investigations / responses



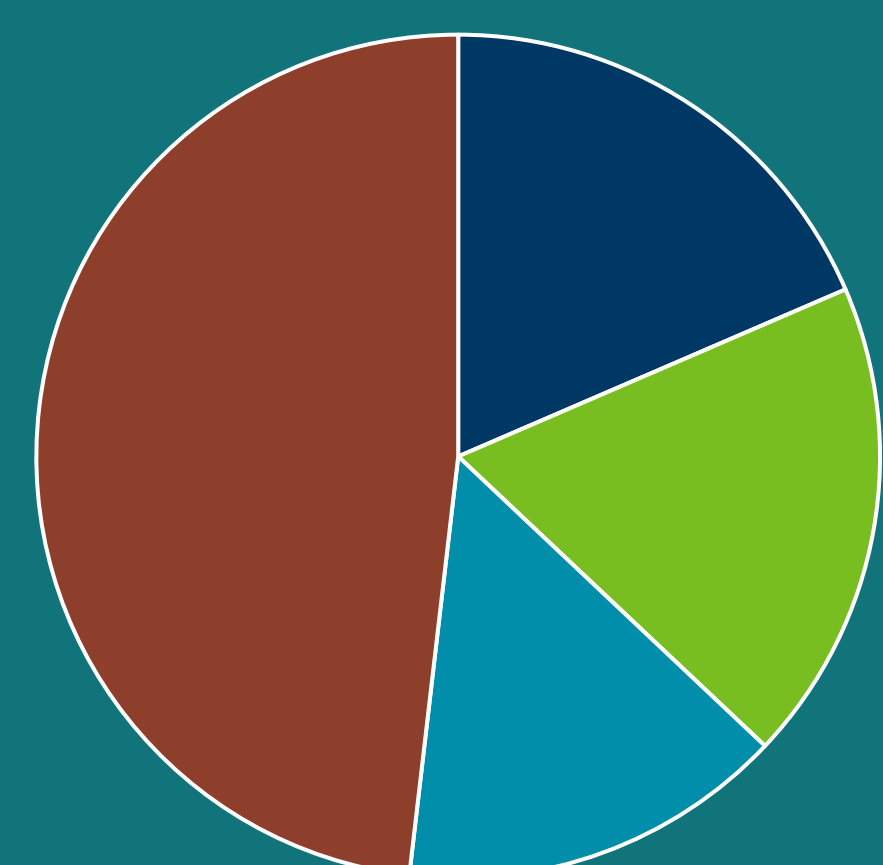
Investigations Initiated by Month

25

with human illness

23

in which a pathogen was identified



□ Cyclospora □ Escherichia □ Norovirus □ Salmonella

10

Traceback investigations

7

Resulted in a recall



Midwest Regional RRT Meeting

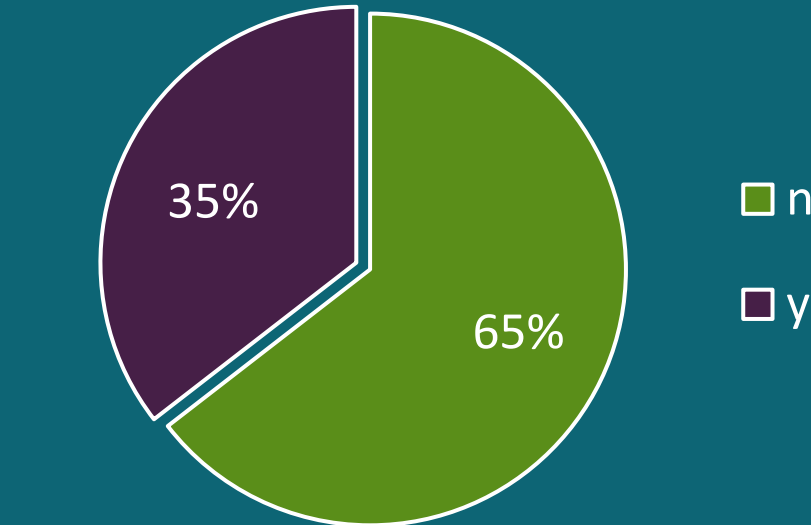
The 3rd annual Midwest Regional Rapid Response Team Meeting was held September 10-11, 2019 in Marquette, Michigan. This two day meeting brought together representatives from FDA, USDA, AFDO and State/Local agencies from Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

In addition to state updates, the meeting featured a presentation on environmental troubleshooting, an AFDO recall tool demonstration and a tabletop exercise. The exercise focused on triggers for ICS/RRT activation and coordination among federal, state and local agencies during outbreak investigations and product recalls.



The RRT community often jokes that all investigations begin on the Friday before a holiday. In Minnesota last year 11 (35%) responses were initiated on a Friday & three (27%) preceded a holiday weekend.

Initiated on a Friday



Joint Feed Response

On Friday, 3/29/19, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Rapid Response Team (RRT) received a Reportable Food Registry (RFR) report for pig feed produced in Mankato, Minnesota. Monensin poisoning was suspected when approximately 1,500 pigs fell ill and 620 died. However, the affected pigs were also being fed medicated water and the farm was conducting a root cause analysis at the time of reporting to the FDA.

MDA RRT contacted the FDA Office of Human and Animal Food Operations, Division I West to discuss options for follow-up with the Minnesota facility. A planning call was held on 4/2/19 between FDA, RRT, and the MDA Feed Program. It was determined that FDA would lead an investigation at the feed manufacturer with an MDA Feed inspector also in attendance.

The joint inspection was conducted on 4/4/19 and facility management admitted fault in the incident. While the initial sample collected at the pig farm identified 11ppm of monensin in the feed, the firm retainer sample contained 100ppm. The adulterated feed was likely diluted when mixed with other feed at the farm, initially masking the high levels.

The root cause analysis determined that the high monensin level in the pig feed was likely a hand-add mix-up in which medication for cattle feed was mistakenly added to the pig feed, and the medication for the pig feed was added to the cattle feed.

Adventures in CBD Products

An investigation was initiated in June 2019 after a complaint was submitted to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Retail Food Program by the City of Minneapolis. Minneapolis reported that two cannabidiol (CBD) containing beverages, bottled lemonade and coffee products, were identified for sale at a Minneapolis retailer. The products were produced by two different manufacturers but both products were produced and distributed exclusively in Minnesota.

Three hemp-derived ingredients—hulled hemp seed, hemp seed protein powder, and hemp seed oil—have been identified by FDA as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) ingredients. However, no other hemp-derived ingredients are recognized as GRAS. Hemp seeds and products produced from them contain essentially no CBD, whereas the flowering portion of the hemp plant, as well as stalks and leaves, do contain CBD.

A likely cause for confusion is that hemp-derived CBD is widely available in Minnesota, but because CBD is an active ingredient in an FDA-approved drug product, it cannot be used as a food ingredient. Minnesota adopts federal food regulations by reference, so CBD is not allowed in food in the state.

Both firms agreed to cease production and distribution of CBD-containing beverages. The MDA and Minnesota Department of Health are planning outreach and public communication about CBD and hemp—as well as targeted messages to food manufacturers and retailers—to help alleviate confusion.



Intentional Chemical Release

On Monday, 6/24/19, the Minnesota RRT received a report of a "chemical incident" at a Walmart store in Andover, MN. When MDA staff first contacted the store management to discuss the incident a representative reported that the incident did not affect the grocery area, that there was no concern about food products, and that the building had been cleared by local responders and was open and selling product as normal.

However, MDA soon discovered that a chemical "plume" of unknown composition had likely contacted open produce. All exposed produce was embargoed and an order was written for the initial false statement indicating no impact on grocery areas of the store. Embargoed product was released on 6/28/19 for chemical residue testing to determine proper handling and disposal, and was subsequently destroyed. Law enforcement reported the chemical "plume" was produced when a juvenile intentionally combined pesticides with pool chemicals in the gardening area of the store.

A consumer notification was issued on 6/28/19, warning the public against eating any produce that may have been exposed during the chemical incident.

NEWSRELEASE MDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

June 28, 2019

MDA Issues Consumer Advisory for Fresh, Unpackaged Produce Purchased at Walmart in Andover, MN

St. Paul, MN: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is issuing a consumer advisory in response to a chemical incident that occurred at the Walmart Supercenter in Andover, MN (1851 Bunker Lake Blvd NW) on Saturday, June 22, 2019 around 5:00 p.m. If you purchased fresh, unpackaged produce (such as apples, peaches, grapes, herbs, and onions) from Walmart in Andover between 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 23 and 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, please dispose of the product out of an abundance of caution.

Other unpackaged foods for sale at the store were destroyed following the incident. All foods now available for sale at this Walmart location are not affected. If you have experienced any adverse symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider.

Contact

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