UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Office of Public Health and Science Mission

The Office of Public Health and Science ensures the establishment and support of scientifically sound food safety programs and policies to reduce or eliminate foodborne illness. OPHS collects, analyzes, and reports scientific information related to meat, poultry, and egg products to assess potential human health risks throughout the farm-to-table continuum.

OPHS uses a risk assessment approach to focus its programs on the potential human health outcome of consumption of meat, poultry, and egg products. OPHS scientific experts: (1) monitor and analyze production processes, (2) identify and evaluate potential foodborne hazards, (3) determine estimates of risk to human health, (4) respond to recognized, emerging, or potential threats to the food supply, (5) conduct trace back or trace forward investigations to identify product disposition and/or the origin of hazards, (6) coordinate the recall of products when there is reason to believe that they are adulterated or unwholesome, and (7) provide emergency preparedness for foodborne problems through mechanisms such as the Health Hazard Evaluation Board, the Department's Federal Emergency Rapid Response Evaluation Team (FERRET), and the Foodborne Outbreak Response Control Group (FORCG).

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WEBSITE: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPHS/ophswho.htm

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