

**Animal Production Food Safety and Security  
Committee Report**

**2008 Mid Year Report**

**September 2008**



**Chair: Dr. James McKean, Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine**

**Vice Chair: Andrew Kennedy, FoodlogIQ**

At the 2008 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis Indiana issues related to food certification schemes were presented. Customer concerns about a range of health, welfare and production issues were outlined and the current EU certification processes explored.

Since that time:

- a number of Salmonella outbreaks have occurred in vegetables in North America;
- as has potentially the largest Salmonella outbreak in Danish history caused by an unknown source(s) but believed to be linked to meats;
- Beef recalls for *E. coli* contamination continue apace;
- Maple Leaf Foods in Canada is experiencing a major Listeria recall of a range of their products, and are experiencing international trade restrictions.

Each of these incidents in and of themselves is impactful to the producers and processors directly involved, and indirectly their associated industries. With each episode consumer confidence of the food supply, processor/producer efforts and effectiveness of governmental oversight is challenged as unable to consistently supply a safe and wholesome food supply.

Therefore our initial thoughts for Annual Meeting Programming are to evaluate consumer/retail reactions, perhaps using MCOOL as the initial vehicle. Producer/processor liability and traceability is another question we are considering, but might be presented in a broader policy context of "is there need to offer producers and processors legal protections in exchange for development and adoption of industry Best Practices?" That seems to be the tack that UK has taken.