# FOOD SAFETY: LIKE IT OR NOT IT'S HERE!

By Alexander J. Ott

#### **HISTORY**

- 1998 Clinton Administration puts together program: Guide to Minimize Microbial Contamination
- 1999 retailers begin to make move to require industry to have a food safety program
- No guidance for industry for which program to use.
- USDA comes has program (Government Audit)

### HISTORY CON'T

- Several Audits Surface
  - Primus
- EuroGAP

-AIB

• USDA

- SQF

-HACCP

- GAPs & GMPs
  - Which one for which industry
- Confusion
- Retailers still demanding
  - Questions about their programs

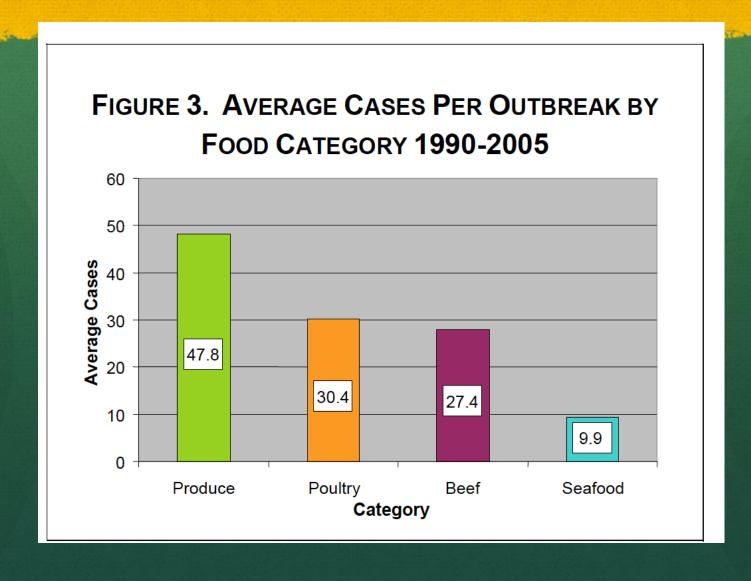
# FOOD SAFETY BECOMES SECURITY

- 2001 changes scope of food safety to security
  - 9-11
  - FBI involved in security programs
- Security document given to industry
- Bioterrorism Act of 2002
  - Five different areas
  - Food Facilities must register
  - FDA expanded powers

### FOOD SAFETY OUTBREAKS

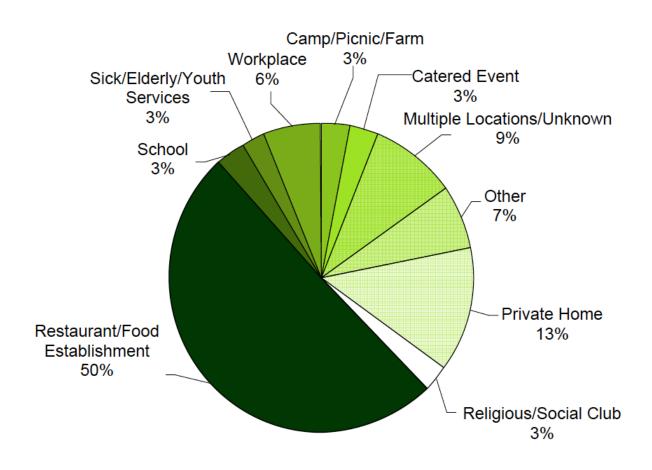
- October 2003-May 2004 Lettuce (mixed salad) E. coli O157:H7; 57 reported cases in California
- April 2004 Spinach E. coli O157:H7; 16 reported cases in California
- September 2005 Lettuce (romaine) E. coli O157:H7; 32 reported cases in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Oregon
- September 2006 Spinach E. coli O157:H7; 205 case (five deaths) nationwide
- November 2006 Lettuce E. coli O157:H7; New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania; 71 sickened
- December 2006 Lettuce E. coli O157:H7; Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin; 81 ill
- \*CDC

Outbreaks by the numbers: Fruits and Vegetables 1990 -2005 Caroline Smith DeWaal & Farida Bhuiya\*Center for Science in the Public Interest 2009\*



## PRODUCE OUTBREAK LOCATIONS

#### FIGURE 2. PRODUCE OUTBREAK LOCATIONS



### INDUSTRY, REGULATIONS & GOVERNMENT

- Leafy Green Marketing Order
- More industries creating their own GAPs & GMPs
- FDA doing more audits
- Food Modernization Act
  - Regulations still being drafted

### SO WHAT? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

- Retailers want their food safe
  - Want a recognized food safety audit program
  - GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative)
    - Primus GFSI
    - SQF
    - GlobalGAP
    - Tesco
    - British Retail Consortium

### BASICS OF FOOD SAFETY AREAS

- 15 areas
- Included In These Areas:
  - Traceback
  - Record Keeping/Self-Audit
  - Site History
  - Soil
  - Fertilizer
  - Irrigation/Fertigation
  - Harvesting
  - Produce Handling
  - Waste Pollution
  - Worker Safety Training
  - Environmental Issues
  - Complaints
  - Security

### GROWER EXAMPLE

#### • CROP PROTECTION

- Major area of concern
- Looking for:
  - Reasons of management (why)
  - Are you educated enough to make these decisions
  - What data are you using to make these decisions
  - Do you have records for your decisions
  - How do you determine what to spray
  - How do you log it

### DURING THE AUDIT

- Demonstrate knowledge that you know what you are doing
- Show the records
- Testing of MRLs
- What to do if exceeded the MRL
- NOT GOING TO GO AWAY...ONLY GOING TO INCREASE!!!

### NEXT UP

- FOOD SAFETY MODERIZATION ACT
  - Five Components
  - Two Components have drafted rules (550pg each)
  - Implemented May 2014
  - Possible audits similar to OSHA inspections
  - 14,000 FDA auditors needed
  - 2014 FY Budget seeks \$295 million increase

### GOOD NEWS

Looking at coming up with one standard

Looking at streamlining the system

• Eventually this will become part of the culture

### **BOTTOMLINE**

• EMBRACE IT OR FIGHT IT

• FOOD SAFETY IS HERE...ITS NOT GOING AWAY

#### THANK YOU

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