



RECOMMENDATION #1 – Reform the food safety system in this country into an integrated system where the resources of government at all levels are utilized.

AFDO believes that this nation will never achieve the effective food safety system that consumers demand until government agencies work in a more collaborative and integrated fashion. Recent food safety episodes including multi state illness outbreaks, food recalls of widely marketed products, and the importation of violative food and animal products has clearly demonstrated the need to reform our food safety system.

AFDO has worked with FDA and FSIS on various efforts to integrate the national food safety system which has undoubtedly helped, but until government at all levels fully commit to this strategy, our system for assuring a safe food supply will remain as it is.

Fortunately, there are efforts in place to address this concern. An effort by the George Washington University; School of Public Health and Health Services is preparing a report entitled “Enhancing the Role of State & Local Government in an Integrated Risk Based Food Safety System”. AFDO collaborated with the institution on this project and endorses the numerous recommendations in the report. AFDO will make sure the Transition Team receives a copy of this report for consideration.

The major goals of an integrated national food safety system are identified in the following points:

- Establish a system that will better utilize and leverage all the committed food safety resources at all levels of government

- Build uniformity and consistency with inspectional, analytical, enforcement and surveillance activities

- Inspection equivalence by regulatory authorities through adherence of the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards and the Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards.

- Increase the level of consumer confidence by improving food safety