
 U.S. Food and Drug Administration 

Priorities of FDA Food Safety Programs.

Robert E. Brackett, Ph.D., Director,
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

- Recently, several news articles misquoted statements I made during a presentation I gave at the Institute of Food Technologist's Annual Meeting from June 24-28, 2006 in Orlando, Florida. During that presentation, I described the process and rationale that would be employed to reduce activities in light of diminishing resources, but also specifically cautioned the audience that none of the scenarios described were imminent. CFSAN appreciates the opportunity to clarify the Center's position on the status of certain program areas, specifically, the Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program.

- In light of growing responsibilities and diminishing resources, CFSAN has designated five program priority areas: 1) ensuring food defense, 2) ensuring food safety, 3) improving nutrition, 4) improving dietary supplement safety, and 5) ensuring cosmetic safety. CFSAN has evaluated its activities within each of the five program priority areas and has determined where reductions can be taken that would have the least negative impact on public health. Specific programs that have a lesser potential effect on public health (e.g., pesticide monitoring) have been designated as having a lower priority compared to other programs (e.g., food defense) that have a greater potential effect on public health.

- Lower priority programs *may* be considered for reduction or elimination in the coming years as the Center continues to face increasing resource challenges. To date, a determination has not been made to discontinue any program, including the Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program. Nonetheless, CFSAN *may* consider reductions of monitoring activities for specific contaminants for which there is insufficient information to indicate a public health risk. Monitoring activities for contaminants and other issues that pose a risk to public health will continue.

- Given increasing resource challenges, CFSAN must focus on programs and activities that provide the greatest public health protection. CFSAN will continue to employ its resources wisely to achieve its public health mission and will collaborate with State and Federal agencies, when necessary, to ensure that the food supply is safe. CFSAN is confident that with strategic priority setting and program management, it will maintain its high standards and remain the world's gold standard for food safety.