



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Meat Inspection Reform

Towards a Safer, Saner, Simpler Approach to Meat Safety and Trade

Richard Arsenault, dmv MSc - Meat Programs Division

Second Roundtable Conference on Revision of Meat Inspection

Brussels, October 25, 2010

Canada

Outline

Why reform is needed now

What is preventing reform

What is the vision for reform

What are the keys to success



Why Reform?

The basic approach to meat inspection has not significantly changed since Van Ostertag

Everything else has changed

- Animal production practices
- Food technology
- Consumer behaviour
- Trade

...Systems are more and more complex and integrated

“Dissociative” Meat Inspection

The control measures associated with traditional meat inspection remain mostly organoleptic-based

Today’s hazards are not detected by the naked eye

We keep “catching up” with new hazards by layering new requirements on top of old ones but have not critically looked at the old practices

Many historical practices may or may not still be contributing to food safety in a meaningful way and may actually be getting in the way of safer food

We can no longer afford to keep doing this

Why Has Reform Not Taken Place Already? ... Because:

Reforms are complicated – science is not black and white and implementing risk management decisions takes time, \$\$\$, and courage

Talking about where meat comes from isn't easy – gaining and sustaining consumer awareness of the issues and support for changes is difficult

Stakeholders who see reform as a “winners and losers” exercise – the “losers” are fighting and blocking the process

Change management isn't easy

What is the Vision?

Veterinary Public Health Medicine must move from being based on carcass inspection to being based on a systems' approach for food production and food safety that focuses on :

- Current risks and hazards
- Linking controls from gate to plate
- Keeping things simple and practical

The veterinary profession needs to show leadership

- Trans-national initiatives: OIE, One Health, Roundtable
- National initiatives

Keys to Success

Leadership by the Veterinary Community

Expanding the dialogue beyond the usual suspects
and building the necessary linkages between
historical silos

- Pre-harvest – Harvest – Post-Harvest
- Agriculture and Public Health
- Industry and Public Citizens
- Trading Nations

Public transparency and accountability

Charging what it costs for science-based programs
(delivery & development)

Sharing knowledge and adopting common
approaches

Canada