Produce Traceabilities and Complexities

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Session overview

• Gale Prince- SAGE Consulting- overview
• Sherri McGarry, FDA/CFSAN- FDA perspective on tracing fresh produce
• Dave Gombas, United Fresh Produce Assn- industry advances in traceability
• Q&A, panel discussion
• Institute of Food Technologists
  – Not-for profit scientific and professional society for food scientists and technologists
  – 22,000 members (no corporate members) worldwide

• 5- year contract with FDA
  – Won competitively
  – Individual tasks are issued
    • Tasks are determined by FDA, not requested by IFT
IFT- Traceability in Food Systems

• “Evaluate the public health, economic and shock consequences (i.e risk) of traceability systems in the food and feed continuum…”
  – Identify current and future traceability systems (US and overseas)
  – Consider farm to table; points of service back to points of processing and production
  – Accessibility of information to public health officials
  – Costs of traceability (esp. small business)
Products IFT will consider

• FDA regulated food products
  - Packaged/labeled
  - Not packaged (fresh produce*)
  - Ingredients
  - Animal feed (minimal)

• Working with trade associations, and individual companies

• Company information is kept confidential; data will be aggregated in the final report
Provide to FDA, by Sep 30 ‘09

• Evaluation of industry traceability practices and technologies
• Costs associated with the industry traceability systems and technologies
• Recommendations for process improvements and technologies to more rapidly and precisely track and trace product in the food continuum
• Suitability and feasibility of recommendations for use by large versus very small business and barriers to implementation
IFT and Traceability

- Webcasts
- **Food Technology** magazine articles
- Global Food Safety and Quality Conference
  - June 10, 2009
  - Anaheim, CA
  - Speakers include Gale and Sherri
  - Industry and regulatory panels
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