

## Food Safety

**Food Safety and Inspection Service**

The mission of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is to provide assurance that meat and poultry, and egg, meat, and poultry products are safe, wholesome, and informatively and honestly labeled. FSIS provides programs which, while not specifically naming American Indians or Indian tribes as beneficiaries, may nevertheless be of special interest to American Indians or Indian tribes. These two programs are the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Program and the Meat and Poultry Hotline.

**Federal Radiological Emergency Response Program**

**Nature and Purpose:** FSIS is the lead USDA agency for the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Program, since one of the key issues in a nuclear emergency is food safety. This program includes incidents at commercial nuclear power plants, nuclear weapons accidents, transportation accidents involving nuclear materials, and related sabotage and terrorism.

**Available Assistance:** FSIS can provide training programs for Indian tribes to familiarize them with the emergency response capabilities of USDA and the other Federal agencies that could, in the event of an emergency, be made available to Indian tribes if requested.

**Printed Information Available:** Printed information includes a brochure, "Radiological Emergency Information for Farmers, Food Processors, and Distributors."

**Washington Contact:** George E. Bickerton, USDA/FSIS/Office of Field Operations, Director, Emergency Programs Staff, Room 218, West End Court, Washington, DC 20250-3700; (202) 418-8910.

**Meat and Poultry Hotline**

**Nature and Purpose:** The toll-free Meat and Poultry Hotline is part of an extensive food safety education program conducted by FSIS as part of its mission to ensure the safety of meat and poultry products from farm to table.

**Available Assistance:** The hotline provides accurate and up-to-date information to consumers on safe food handling and the prevention of foodborne illness. A team of home economists, registered dietitians, and food technologists answer callers' questions.

**Washington Contact:** The Meat and Poultry Hotline number is (800) 535-4555.