



Safe Food for a Healthy Life

An Initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts at Georgetown University

FDA Responsibilities and Resources

FDA Regulates:

- \$417 billion worth of domestic food and \$49 billion of imported food¹
- All vegetables, fruits, nuts, dairy products, breads, cereals and fresh eggs²
- 136,000 domestic food facilities, including manufacturers, processors and warehouses including storage tanks and grain elevators³
- Two million farms, 935,000 restaurants and institutional food-service establishments, and 114,000 supermarkets, grocery stores and other food outlets⁴
- One hundred and eighty-nine thousand foreign facilities are registered to manufacture, process, pack or hold food Americans eat⁵

FDA Lacks Resources to Keep Nation's Food Safe:

- FDA accounted for only 24 percent of the \$1.7 billion federal agencies spent on food safety activities in FY 2003⁶
- FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) staffing declined 14 percent between FY 2003 and FY 2006, from 950 staff years to 812⁷ FDA's field inspection staff responsible for food safety enforcement declined 11.5 percent between FY 2003 and FY 2006, from 2,217 staff years to 1,962⁸
- Inspections of the 189,000 foreign food firms declined from 211 in FY 2001 to fewer than 100 in fiscal year 2007⁹
- FDA estimates that it inspects food manufacturers once every 10 years¹⁰

¹HHS, FDA, *Food Protection Plan, An integrated strategy for protecting the nation's food supply* (2007)⁶, <http://www.fda.gov/oc/initiatives/advance/food/plan.html>.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

⁶House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, *American Lives Still at Risk: When Will FDA's Food Protection Plan Be Fully Funded and Implemented?* 110th Cong. Sess. 2 June 12, 2008, http://energycommerce.house.gov/cmte_mtgs/110-oi-hrg.061208.FDAFoodProtectionPlan.shtml

⁷HSS, FDA, Science Board to the FDA, Report of the Subcommittee on Science and Technology. *FDA Science and Mission at Risk*, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007) 3,



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http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/AC/07/briefing/2007-4329b_02_01_FDA%20Report%20on%20Science%20and%20Technology.pdf; (accessed June 2008).

⁸ House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, *American Lives Still at Risk*, June 12, 2008.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ FDA, Science Board to the FDA (2007), 3, http://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/AC/07/briefing/2007-4329b_02_01_FDA%20Report%20on%20Science%20and%20Technology.pdf.

www.ProduceSafetyProject.org

3300 Whitehaven Street, NW Suite 5000 | Box 571444 | Washington, DC 20057
(202) 687-2937 phone | (202) 687-2939 fax