

## Sausage May Be 15% Poultry Meat

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced its decisions on proposals regarding the inclusion of poultry in cooked sausage products. These include frankfurters, bologna, vienna sausage, knockwurst, and other similar products.

These decisions will be implemented by appropriate amendments to the meat and poultry inspection regulations. They provide that:

Up to 15 percent of poultry may be included in cooked sausage products. When poultry is included, it must be named in the list of ingredients on the

package. Larger amounts of poultry may also be included in the cooked sausage products, if following the labeling requirements already in effect — the product name clearly shows its presence, as, for example, "Frankfurter with Chicken."

When poultry is included in "all meat" sausages, only poultry meat (without skin) will be permitted. Poultry skin, as a normally edible part of the product, may be used in cooked sausage products that are not labeled as being composed of all meat. In that case, the amount of skin must not be more than the natural proportion that is present on the whole carcass or the part which is used.

Poultry kidneys and sex glands

are prohibited as an ingredient against permitting the use of these organs from livestock carcasses in cooked sausages.

Bone residue in deboned poultry must not exceed one percent. Poultry processors asked liberalization of the Department's proposal to allow only one half of one percent. Existing guidelines permit one and one-half percent. The Department appraised operating results in a series of poultry plants that use mechanical deboning equipment. That analysis demonstrated that the equipment can be operated, readily and practically, to produce poultry meat that contains no more than one percent bone.

These decisions are scheduled to be published in full detail in the Federal Register on Sept. 3

as amendments to the regulations under the Federal Meat Inspection Act as amended by the Wholesome Meat Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act as amended by the Wholesome Poultry Act. They will go into effect 60 days after publication.

The Department published proposals on this matter in the Federal Register of April 9 (Press Release USDA 1068-69) and invited everyone interested to submit comments during a 45-day period ending May 26.

In response to this invitation, the Department received 1,066 comments. It continues a long-established policy in cooked sausage products. This

letters of comment — the largest number that has been received in the consideration of changes in the meat and poultry inspection regulations. Comments came from the meat and poultry industries, colleges, physicians and home economists, as well as 965 consumers and consumer organizations. The Department considered all of these comments and all other information available to it, in making the decisions announced.

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