General Health Issues

What Is Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point Program And Can It Be Applied To Animal **Production?**

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Council for Agricultural Science and Technology estimated that microbial foodborne disease cases in the United States are likely to range from 6.5 million to 33 million annually and deaths as high as 9,000 each year. Furthermore, recent estimates indicate that the cost of foodborne illnesses ranges from \$5 billion to \$22 billion dollars annually.

The demographic picture of the U.S. is changing rapidly. with an increasing number of elderly people, organ transplant recipients, AIDs patients, and individuals immunocompromised by disease or chemotherapy who are more susceptible to foodborne pathogens. Taking the overall picture into consideration, safety of the food supply remains a high priority for consumers, producers, processor, veterinarians, and regulatory agencies.

To protect the food supply and assure food safety, the Food and Drug Administration has adopted a food safety system. The new system is known as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point, or HACCP (pronounced hassip) was first developed nearly 30 years ago for astronauts. HACCP is defined as a systematic approach to be used in food production as a means to assure food safety.

The HACCP system has been widely recognized as the preferable system for assuring food safety. It has been endorsed by many national and international scientific groups, corporations, government agencies and academic organizations. The system is now widely used to assure food safety of low-acid canned foods, fruits and vegetable juices, seafood, poultry, beef and pork products.

Based on its success, the FDA intends to use HACCP throughout other areas of the food industry, including both

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