**IOWA FOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING**

**Iowa Food Safety and Protection Task Force website**: <http://ia.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/>

The Iowa Food Safety and Defense Task Force met on **Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, Coralville, Iowa.

Those in attendance:

Christina Christensen, Black Hawk County Health Dept.

Katie Coyle, Iowa Egg Council

Jim Dickson, Iowa State University, Animal Science

Mark Glover, FDA

Nancy Hall, Iowa Hygienic Laboratory

Sandy Heinen, Black Hawk County Health Department

Cindy Jordan, Iowa Restaurant Association

Steven Mandernach, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Mary Montgomery, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Kristen Obbink, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Heidi Peck, Iowa Environmental Health Assoc.

Carlene Russell, Iowa Dept. on Aging

Amanda Steffen, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Neal Vaughn, Iowa Department of Agriculture

Amanda Svoboda, Iowa State University Food Science

1. Welcome: Dr. Wade Aldous, Iowa Hygienic Laboratory Clinical Lab Director, welcomed the group and gave a short summary concerning the laboratory’s everyday operation.
2. FDA Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) Chemistry Cooperative Agreeement Program: Dr. John Vargo, Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, presented to the group concerning the chemistry aspect of the FERN Program. The program is a group of federal, state and local laboratories and agencies prepared to respond to accidental and deliberate contamination on the nation’s food supply. The SHL (State Hygienic Lab) is a member of the FERN network in chemical, microbiological and radiochemical testing. *(see attached PowerPoint)*
3. FERN Radiological Program: Radiochemistry or nuclear chemistry is the study of radioactive elements both natural and artificial. Marinea Mehrhoff, Radiochemistry Section Supervisor, presented to the group concerning food testing at SHL and how radiation enters food supplies. The SHL is the only lab in Iowa with the ability to test for radiation. *(see attached PowerPoint)*
4. USDA FERN Microbiology Cooperative Agreement Program: Jing Bai, Molecular Analyst, presented to the group on the test methods concerning microbiological threat agents. *(see attached PowerPoint)*
5. SHL Stool Enteric Testing Overview: Randy Groepper, Clinical Analyst Specialist, presented to the group relating to Enteric Bacteriology; stool culture outbreak specimens for outbreak investigations. *(see attached PowerPoint)*
6. SHL PulseNet Program: Nancy Hall, Iowa Hygienic Laboratory, presented to the group concerning a national network of public health and federal food regulatory labs that routinely perform standardized DNA fingerprinting of foodborne bacteria. The method is called pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) and shares DNA fingerprints electronically in real time via the Internet. *(see attached PowerPoint)*
7. DIA Update and Information Sharing: Due to time limitation, there were no updates or information sharing from the group.
8. Tour of the Facility: Nancy Hall gave the group an overview of the SHL process and tour of the laboratory facility.
9. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned approximately 3:30 p.m.

Handouts attached:

* Food Emergency Response at the SHL – Chemistry
* Food Testing at SHL – Radiochemistry Section
* Food Emergency Response at the SHL – Microbiology
* State Hygienic Lab – Enteric Bacteriology
* State Hygienic Lab PulseNet Program