# Interstate Food Transportation Assessment Project



Marianne Courey
Michigan Department
of Agriculture

## **Trucking Statistics**

- 73% of all goods are shipped by truck
- 90% of the US food supply is transported by truck
- Truck traffic is expected to double by the year 2020



### **Project Goal**

To determine the current state of food safety and defense of in-transit food in interstate commerce

# Objective

- Identify and test mechanisms for effective coordination between:
  - MDA, ODA, ISDH, IDPH
  - Other State agencies
  - State Police
  - FDA, USDA
  - Local Health Departments

#### Project Phases

- Phase I: Feasibility assessment in April 2006
  - Develop methods and forms
- Phase II: Additional data gathering & practice Summer 2006 (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana)
- Phase III: Coordinated multi-state survey, September 2006.

#### **Focus Areas**

- Lack of refrigeration
- Cross-Contamination
- Labeling
- Packaging
- Pest Activity
- Insanitary Storage
- Security of food loads
- Driver knowledge of food safety & defense

# Lack of Refrigeration



# **Asian Grocery Store Delivery**

Internal temperatures 73°F





**Smoked Duck** 

#### **Cross-Contamination**

Raw meats/poultry dripping on other food & surfaces





## Labeling

Food products lacking label or source information





# Packaging

Improper packaging – used grocery bags & re-used boxes





# **Pest Activity**

Insect egg mass on duck



# **Insanitary Storage**

Roof leak – mold on walls



# **Insanitary Storage**

Blood & food on bed floor



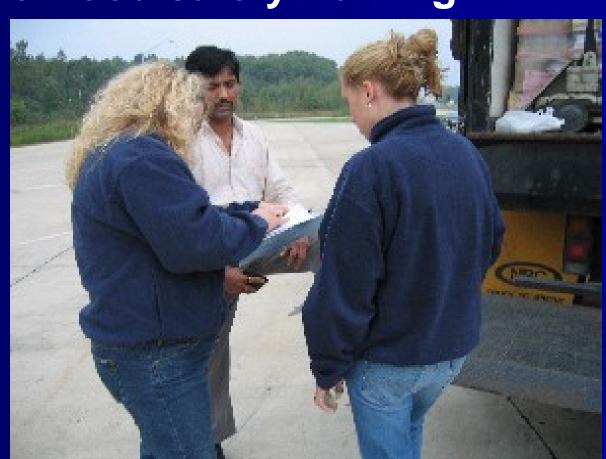
## Food Defense Security Seals

Up to 42% of trucks carrying full or partial loads did not have security seals or locks



### **Driver Surveys**

Low driver awareness of safe food temperatures and low levels of driver food safety training





#### Methods

- On call Officer notifies agency
- Weigh stations or other fixed sites
- Ride along
- Source/destination inspections



# Disposal

- Landfill
- Trash Bag
- Establishment





# Disposal

- Landfill via wrecker
- Trash Bag
- Establishment



### **Surveys Conducted**

- >25,000 trucks observed & categorized
- Surveys/ inspections conducted:
  - Illinois 111
  - Indiana 117
  - Michigan 168
  - Ohio 219

### **Survey Findings**

 Statistics varied greatly between locations – "commodity specific corridors"

- ~14 % of identifiable trucks on the road carrying food (probably higher)
- 59% of trucks were going to a single location vs. multiple deliveries

# Survey Findings

About 15% of trucks pulled over for a survey were empty (returning)

 Large semis surveyed had little or no areas of concern

Most problems found with smaller box trucks and ethnic food transportation

### **Survey Findings**

- Mixed loads with multiple destinations were generally noted as not having adequate segregation
- Communication among truckers is fast
   many trucks found bypassing scales,
   aware food was target

#### Conclusions

- □Food transportation practices provide \_opportunities for threats to the safety and defense of our food supply
- □ Improved coordination increased the efficiency and effectiveness of efforts
- Coordinated surveillance and enforcement can be an effective tool for plugging gaps in the system
- □Additional emphasis on driver knowledge needed

#### Conclusions

This project brought awareness of transportation safety and defense issues forward

□Interagency and interstate teamwork laid foundation for future productive working relationships

□ Fixed site teams worked for survey purposes, but targeted efforts can be more effective for compliance purposes