

# Interstate Food Transportation Assessment Project



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# 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**



# Assessment Teams



# 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