

# Interstate Food Transportation Assessment Project



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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.

# Planning

- Training
- Equipment
- Survey
- Working w/ State police (bullet proof vests, waivers)
- Uniforms/ visible identification
- Communication with other agencies
- Coordinating with local health
- Reading invoices & talking with drivers
- Seals on trucks
- Disposal issues
- Enforcement
- Follow up

# 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



# Lack of Refrigeration

- Not turned on – energy savings



# Asian Grocery Store Delivery

Internal temperatures 66°F



Ready to eat, hot meat meals delivered  
from Chicago to Detroit

# Asian Grocery Store Delivery

Internal temperatures 73°F



Smoked Duck

# Asian Grocery Store Delivery

Featuring a sun roof



# Improper Refrigeration

150 lbs. Gourmet Fish



# Improper Refrigeration

Insulated containers but no coolant



# Cross-Contamination

- Raw meats/poultry dripping on vegetables



# Cross-Contamination

- Raw meats/poultry dripping on other food & surfaces



# Labeling

- Food products lacking label or source information.



# Labeling

- Food products lacking label or source information



# Labeling

- Food products lacking label or source information



# Labeling

- Unknown ingredients
- Unknown source



# Packaging

- Improper packaging – used grocery bags & re-used boxes



# Packaging

- Improper packaging – used grocery bags & re-used boxes



# Pest Activity

Insect egg mass on duck



# Pest Activity

## Bugs in Bok Choy



# 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







DEC  
2

0000985  
ODA SEAL  
CALL (614)  
727-63389

MISSISSIPPI

### Ohio Department of Agriculture

Governor: Rick Warren  
Lieutenant Governor: Robert Cordery  
Director: Fred L. Cripe

Date: 9-7-08

The Ohio Department of Agriculture stopped this product for inspection. In order to perform this inspection it was necessary to remove the product from the market. The Ohio Department of Agriculture has requested the manufacturer to recall the product. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Food Safety at 614-231-2300, Division of Plant Industry at 614-231-2300, or the Division of Animal Industry at 614-231-2300.

Inspected by: Ray ZIMM

Circle appropriate division:  
Division of Food Safety  
Division of Plant Industry  
Division of Animal Industry

Original Seal Number: 0111818  
Seal Number: \_\_\_\_\_

13 10:50 AM

# 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



# Method

## Officer Notifies Agency

- Provide food safety training to State police
- Provide 24 hr. contacts
- Determine ability/need to respond to the scene



# Method

## Officer Notifies Agency

- Respond to scene
- Assess the load
- Obtain records
- Enforcement as necessary
- Notify local health departments of deliveries
- Media?



# Method

## Weigh Stations/Fixed sites

- Count trucks to determine percentage of food traffic
- Identify type of carrier
- Random or targeted selection
- Survey the truck driver
- Assess the interior of the food carrier
- Enforcement as necessary
- Communication

# Weigh Station



# Weigh Station



# Ride Along Method

- Vehicles bypassing scales
- Survey truck drivers of stopped vehicles
- Assess the load
- Divert to fixed site if necessary



# Truck Types

## Box Refrigerated



# Truck Types

## Box Non Refrigerated



# Truck Types - Tankers

Liquids

Flour



# Truck Types

Livestock

Grain/Produce



# 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

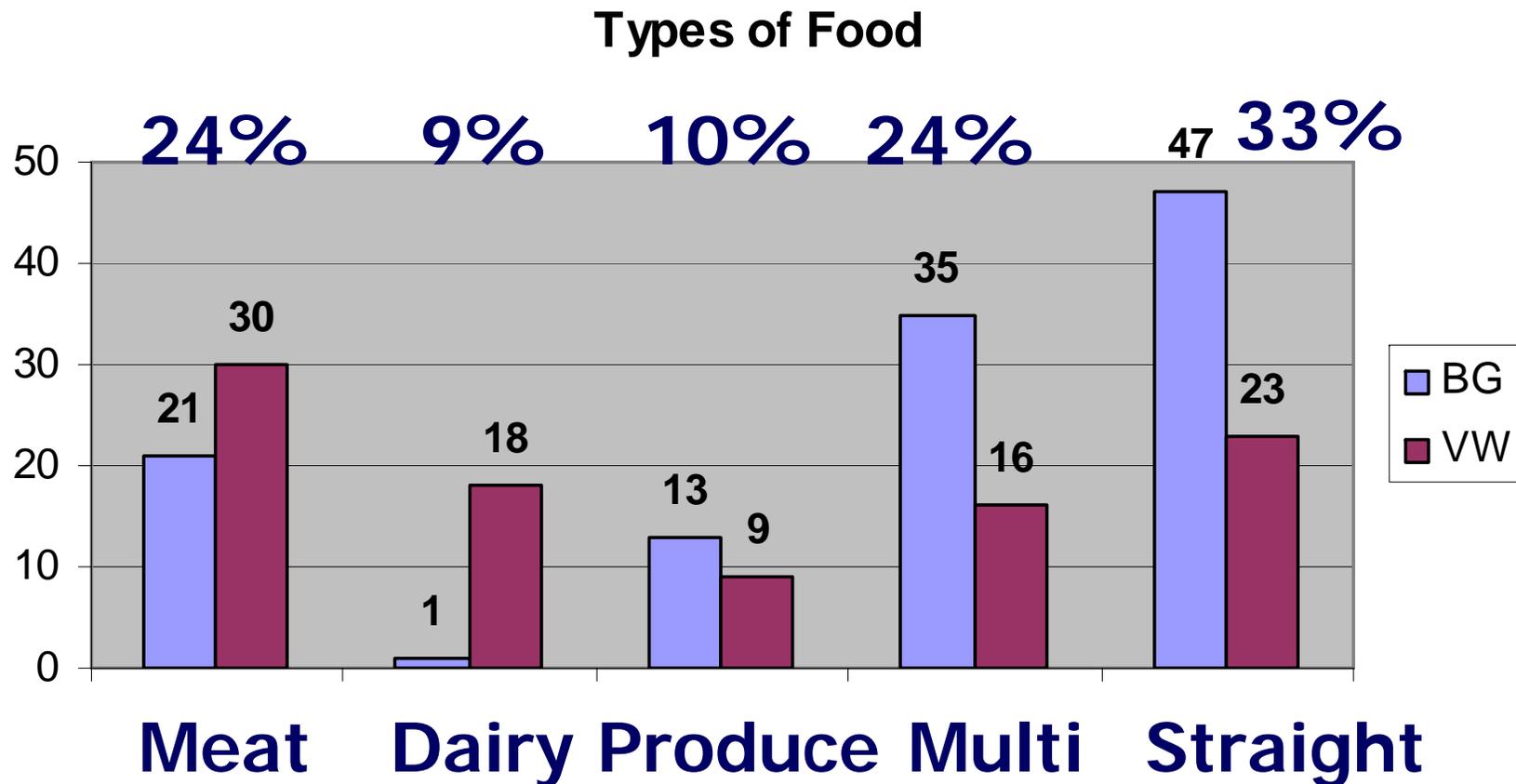
- Statistics varied greatly between locations – “commodity specific corridors”
- ~14 % of identifiable trucks on the road carrying food (probably higher)
- 59% of trucks were going to a single location vs. multiple deliveries

# Survey Findings

- **Truck types overall:**
  - Refrigerated 62-71%
  - Non Refrigerated 11-26%
  - Tankers 5-18%
  - Grain/Produce 0-25%
  - Others (animal) 0-3%
- **Destinations cited:**
  - Warehouses- 38%
  - Food service establishments- 21%
  - Grocery stores- 36%
  - Other- 5%

# Survey Findings

## Ohio data



# 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

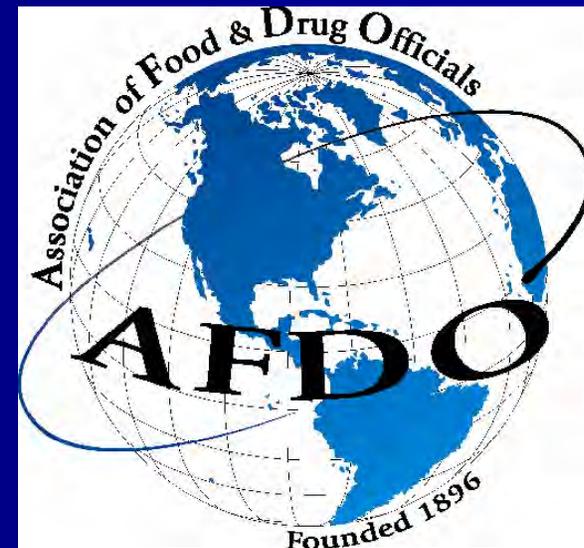
# Resources

- ❑ **USDA/AFTC "Guide for Security Practices in Transporting Agricultural and Food Commodities."**
- ❑ **AFTC Resource Directory**
  - ❑ **Vulnerability & Threat Assessment Tool**
  - ❑ **Security Planning Guide**
  - ❑ **Highway Watch® Program**



# Resources

- ❑ AFDO “Guidelines for the Transportation of Food Products”
- ❑ FDA “Food Producers, Processors, and Transporters: Food Security Preventive Measures Guidance”



# Future Efforts

- Continued response & random transportation assessments
- Continued interstate/interagency communication
- Partner with transportation industry
- Increase awareness of transportation issues
- Increased focus of trucks at receiving



DONT'T DRINK  
AND DRIVE