

NATIONAL PROCESSED RASPBERRY COUNCIL

Food Safety Committee Meeting

The Inn at Lynden, Lynden, WA

May 24, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Participating:

Andy Enfield Antonio Dominguez
 Eric Larson Karen Holzberg
 Rolf Haugen Corey Havard

Others Participating:

Tom Krugman Richard Rubin Nicki Briggs
 Tom Skilton Tarun Harit Hakim Fobia
 John Clark Allison Beadle Loren Kimura
 Britt Burton-Freeman Jon Cotton

x = present o = absent

A. Call to Order; Establish Quorum; Approve Minutes

In the absence of the committee chair, Tom K was asked to serve as chair. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with roll call disclosing a quorum to be present. On a motion by Andy and seconded by Antonio, minutes from the December 1, 2015 meeting as presented were unanimously approved.

B. Food Safety Survey

Tom K directed committee members and guests to a summary of the Food Safety Survey conducted this past Spring. There were a total of 72 responses, with 42 complete surveys. The difference was largely believed to be from international responders, some of whom had mentioned a lack of familiarity with some of the terms during the recent IRO meeting. As the Survey was designed to be more directional than absolute, the responses that were received did provide valuable insight into what the industry knew or didn't know, and what resources would be of valuable in the future. Tom concluded by stating that there was significant raw data in the survey report that could be analyzed to better understand responses.

After reviewing the findings, Tom asked committee members if there were any surprises. One comment was the near 100% response rate to utilization of on farm food safety practices. This could in part be due to most all responses form U.S. based growers or processors, and/or a belief that many people might have indicated a high degree of understanding of practices as this was what the survey was designed to identify. There was agreement that the highest risk at the

farm level is in the international sector where farms are smaller, harvest is by hand, and worker education is most difficult. After reviewing the resources identified that could be most helpful, further discussion noted the need to develop a simple, visual brochure that could be used by growers to help educate farm workers on basic field sanitation and worker hygiene practices. Allison and Tom were asked to develop a brochure and present a draft to the committee for review.

Discussion then turned to the FSMA and upcoming deadlines for implementation, especially the Importer and Foreign Supplier rules. Antonio noted that there have been a number of seminars and local meetings in Chile with small groups to discuss risk mitigation and necessary practices to conform to the Rules. In response to a question regarding the penalties for failure to comply, Tom S noted that there are both civil as well as criminal penalties, with the burden of proof on the importer to ensure its suppliers are in compliance. He went on to state that he believes the market will self-correct over time, with those importers willing to assume the risk through certification dominating the import supply chain as the others stop importing into the U.S. Antonio noted the need to adopt to changing food safety standards worldwide for any producer or processor wishing to stay in business regardless of where their product is sold.

Nicki shared her experience during a food safety recall, and the need to be prepared and honest, knowing who to contact, and having a dedicated spokesperson. Allison stated that a crisis media refresher was planned for the November meeting, and that prior to that time, a summary of the crisis plan which would include contact information would be prepared and sent to industry members.

A discussion on in-plant sanitation and kill steps for microbial or biological contamination concluded the meeting.

C. Adjourn

A date for the next meeting or conference call was not established. There then being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12 noon.