

Canadian Approach to On-farm Food Safety

AIC Foundation Conference

“From Farm Gate to Dinner Plate”

3 November 2003

Edmonton

Albert Chambers

Facilitator/Consultant

COFFS Working Group

AIC Foundation Conference - 3 November 2003
Canadian Approach to On-Farm Food Safety



Presentation Outline

- Why on-farm food safety
- Producer objectives
- Basic elements of the Canadian approach
- Role of National Producer Organizations
- Delivery Options Project
- Status Report



Why On-farm Food Safety?

- Four major drivers
 - Consumer concerns
 - Government initiatives
 - Customer demands
 - Competitor's actions



Consumer Concerns

- Global village & global market
- Food safety incidents weaken consumer confidence & seriously impact on demand
- Traditional media attention has intensified
- New media (web-based) attention is immense



Government Initiatives Since 1993

- **Canada** - creation of CFIA, mandatory HACCP, provincial legislation & new health protection act
- **USA** - mandatory HACCP & farm-to-fork approach
- **EU** - new food agencies & food laws, mandatory food hygiene plans for farms (proposed)
- **Japan** - new food agency
- **Australia** - new food agency, on-farm programs & new guidelines proposed for primary production
- **Codex Alimentarius** - intensified activity & new emphasis on farm-to-fork approach



Customer Demands

- **Canadian**
 - **Restaurants** - GPP's, animal welfare, antibiotics
 - **CCGD** - vendor recognition program
 - **Processors** - company-specific GPP's, on-farm program participation, etc
- **International**
 - **Global food safety initiative (GFSI)**
 - 200 international retailers (Loblaws, Sobeys, Safeway, Walmart)
 - HACCP-based GPP's & 3rd party certification



Competitor's Actions

- **Europe**- on-farm food safety programs (some HACCP-based) in France, Denmark, Holland, Britian, Sweden, many with 3rd party certification
- **USA** - some national (pork, beef), many state (California, Florida, etc) on-farm food safety programs, few are HACCP-based
- **Australia** - multiple & competing HACCP-based on-farm food safety programs, some 3rd party certification



Producer Options

- Do nothing
- Wait for governments to regulate
- Let the downstream food industry dictate
- Be proactive



Producer Objectives

- Producer-led, national & accessible
- Commodity-specific
- HACCP-based & auditable
- Consistent, modular & expandable
- Recognized in Canada
- Internationally accepted
- Affordable



Key Elements of Canadian Approach

- National, commodity-specific programs
- Technically sound programs
- Administratively effective delivery
- Collaborative initiatives
- Official recognition



Technically Sound Programs

- Rigorous HACCP-based approach
- Adoption of CFIA's FSEP "toolkit"
- Use of current science
- Up & downstream input
- Peer & CFIA expert reviews
- Information sharing (successes & failures)
- "Producer friendly", practical results
- Auditable programs



Administratively Effective Delivery

- Common approach to certification based on ISO guidelines
- National training for on-farm auditors based on codex & ISO
- Common approaches to management control, contractual relationships, risk communication, crisis management, etc.
- Ensuring access to risk management solutions (insurance, etc) for producers, auditors & organizations



Collaborative Initiatives

- COFFS Working Group Projects - short list
 - Negotiation of Official Recognition with CFIA & provinces
 - Model Management Manual for Certification
 - National Training Module for On-Farm Food Safety Auditors
 - Interactive Guide to Risk Management
 - Common GPP's for medicated feed mixing
 - Delivery Options Project



NPO's - Roles & Responsibilities (1)

- Develop HACCP-based program
- Maintain & regularly update program
- Update participants on timely basis
- Operate or control certification capacity
- Make available training (producers, auditors, administrators)
- Take additional risk management measures



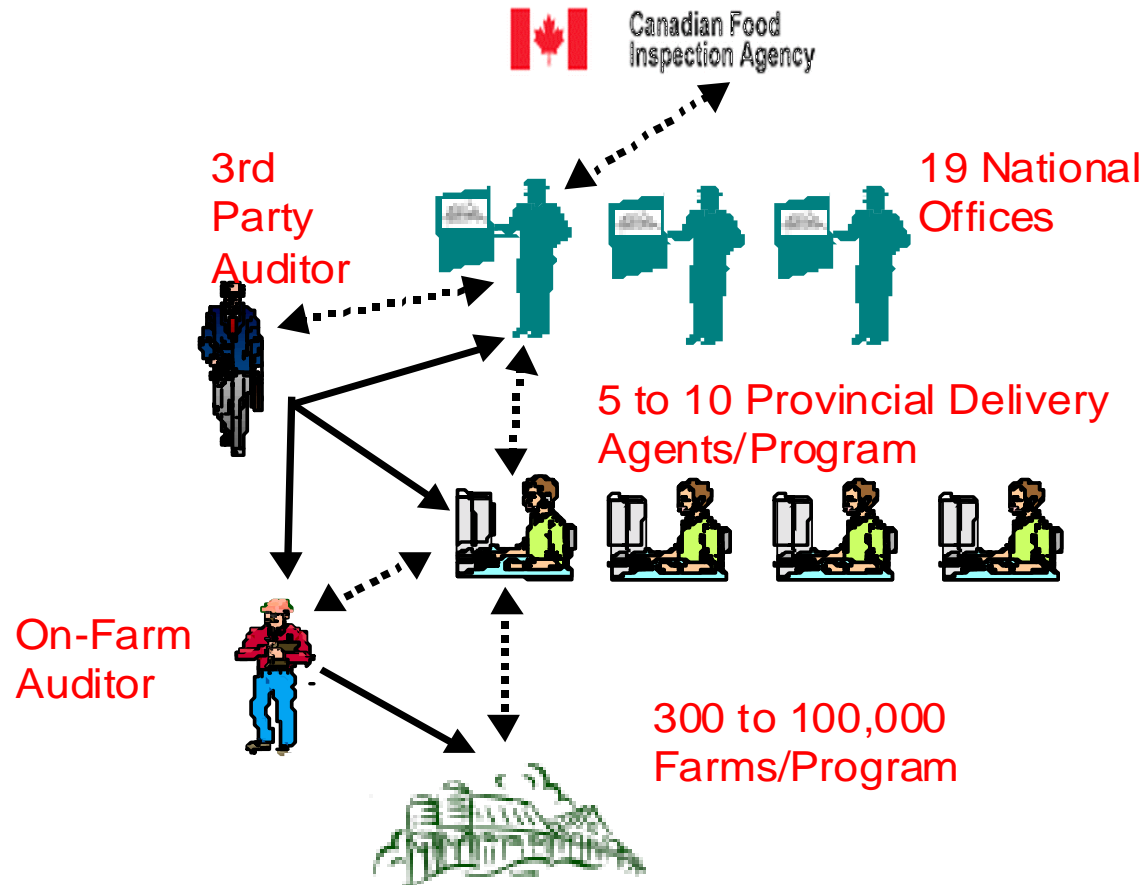
Roles & Responsibilities (2)



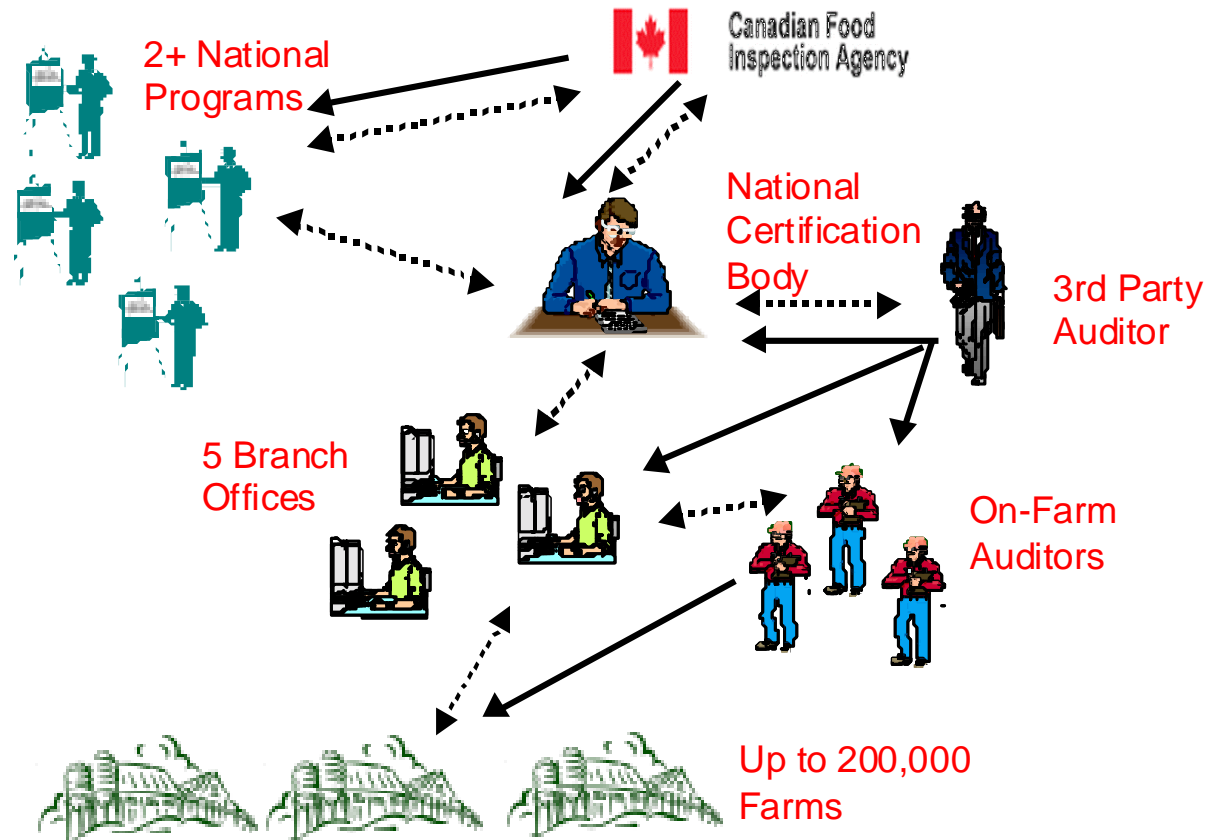
Delivery Options

- Two main options currently being considered
 - Option #1 - Single commodity delivery
 - Option #2 - National certification body (multi-commodity delivery)

Option #1 - Single Commodity Delivery



Option 2 - National Certification Body



AIC Foundation Conference - 3 November 2003
Canadian Approach to On-Farm Food Safety

Delivery Options Project

- National Certification Body
 - Detailed description & costing estimates circulated - Summer 2003
 - NPO's & general farm organizations considering options
 - 3rd Farm Leaders Meeting - early 2004

Canadian Approach - Status Report

- 19 Projects covering 99+% of production
 - Livestock (8) - hogs, cattle, dairy, sheep, bison & cervids (deer/elk), veal, goats
 - Poultry (5) - hatching eggs, hatcheries, table eggs, chickens & turkeys
 - Horticulture (4) - fresh fruits/vegetables, sprouts, mushrooms & herbs/spices
 - Grains, oilseeds, pulses & special crops (1)
 - Honey

Canadian Approach to On-Farm Food Safety

- A Producer-led Initiative
- A Successful Industry/Government Partnership
- A World Leader