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Building Partnerships
Throughout
The Food Continuum

THE BURDEN OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

REDUCTIONS IN MORTALITY/MORBIDITY FROM MANY INFECTIOUS DISEASES HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE SINGLE MOST SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC HEALTH ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PAST CENTURY.

3 SIGNIFICANT FOOD BORNE ILLNESS OUTBREAKS

- Outbreaks involving three BC food products:
 - Raw oysters: 1997-*Vibrio parahaemolyticus*
88 cases
 - Shell eggs: 2000-*Salmonella enteritidis*
52 cases
 - Fresh produce: 2001-*Shigella sonnei*
39 cases

Committees' Formation

- Initiated and chaired by BCCDC
- Primary committee members
 - Federal, Provincial, Health Authority Agencies involved with sector
 - Grower Associations/Marketing Agencies
 - Processors/Distributors
 - Food Service/Retail Associations
 - Included “Guest” Attendees
 - » Suppliers

Committees' Mandate

- Reduce the risk of illness from these foods

Committees' Challenges

- Industry complex for each commodity
- Who's who
- Various and different regulatory agencies involved:
 - Who's doing what?
- Various and different industry groups:
 - Inter connections
- “One size fits all” approach wouldn't work for all committees

Committees' Functions

- Meet on regular basis
- Identify areas of strength/success
- Identify gaps
- NOT A FAULT SEEKING EXERCISE
- Provided recommendations to various subsectors:
 - Regulatory, and
 - Industry
- No regulatory changes made
- Rather, changed how/what was being done

Accomplishments

■ Eggs

- Feed mills' Salmonella test results to BCEP for farm follow-up
- Zero tolerance for feces – Grade B eggs
- Expanded SE farm environmental testing program for SE positive farms
- SE risk factors at food service level communicated to industry and HA's
- Procedure for follow-up with producers selling ungraded eggs to retail industry
- CEMA Inspection Program modified to put a higher "scoring" on SE risk factors

Accomplishments (cont'd)

■ Fresh Produce

- Developed/distributed Information Bulletin for fresh produce
- Initiated study of new technology to sanitize irrigation water
- Door to door campaign: community cooperation in reducing irrigation water contamination
- Educated livestock farmers: how irrigation water quality might be affected by them
- Influenced testing of irrigation water to determine compliance with irrigation water guidelines
- Encouraged submission of research to study death rate of pathogens on fresh produce in field.

Accomplishments (cont'd)

■ Raw Oysters

- Developed 4 tier risk reduction strategy outlining member responsibilities at different action triggers
- Creation of HACCP system for shellfish harvesters to reduce Vp growth
- Led to a CFIA study assessing the level of Vp in oysters in different harvesting conditions. Information incorporated into the HACCP system

Accomplishments (cont'd)

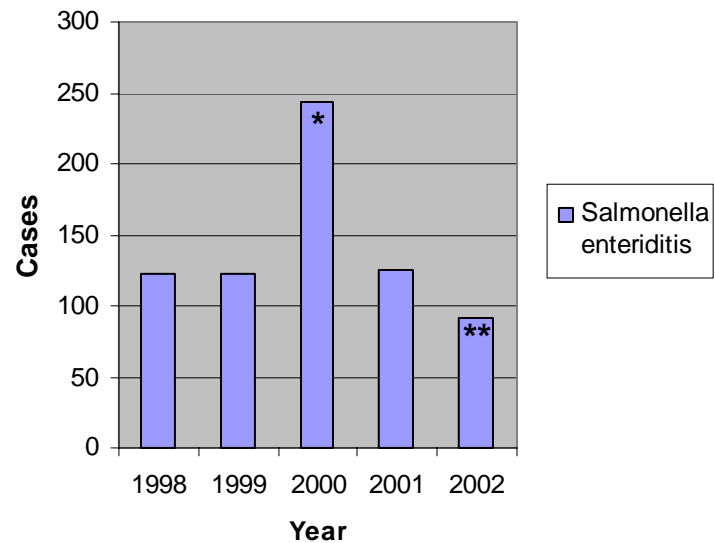
■ Raw Oysters (cont'd)

- Major educational campaign (magazines, media releases, posters) to spread information about concerns and precautions of eating raw oysters in summer
- Creation of Bill of Lading containing pertinent food safety information to accompany oysters from harvest to processing plant
- Information package sent annually to Health Authorities to educate operators selling oysters for raw consumption

Results

Eggs

The Number of Human Isolated Cases of Salmonella Enteritidis Have Declined Since the Formation of The Egg Safety Committee



* Maxims Outbreak

** Impacted by Egg Safety Committee Work

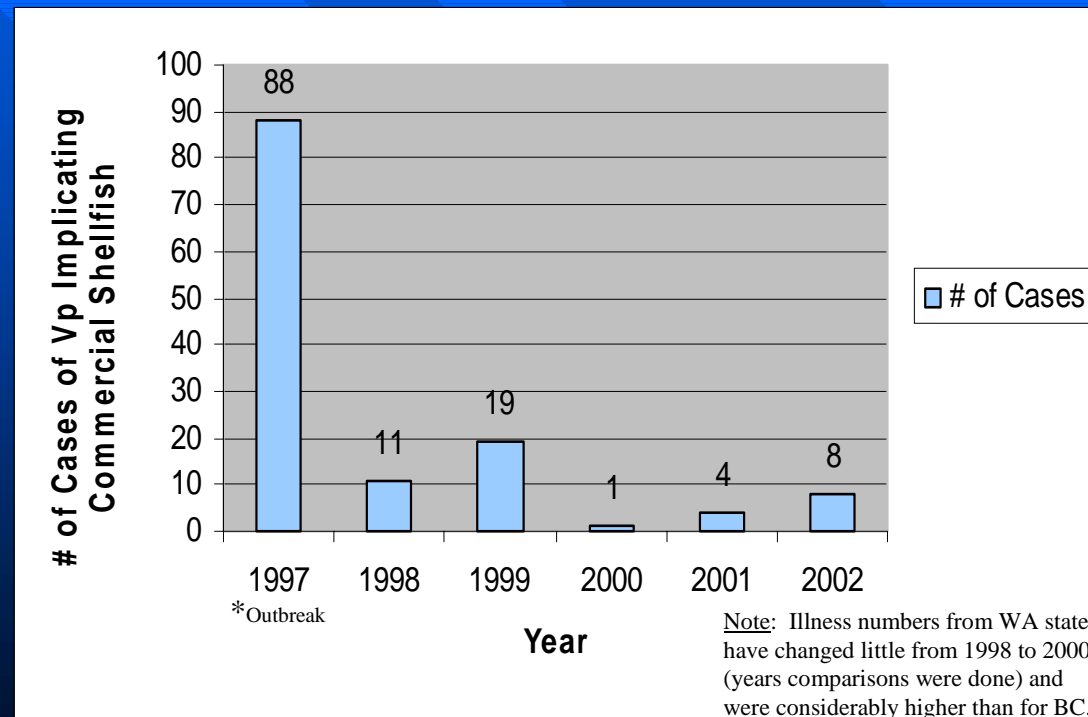
Results

Fresh Produce

- Difficult to correlate number of cases of *Shigella sonnei* to food borne illness
eg. many travel related
- No known outbreaks associated with BC fresh produce since Committee formation

Results

Raw Oysters



Key Lessons Learned

- Someone has to take the lead
- Not a fault seeking exercise
- Rather, what can be done to reduce illness
- Partnership, partnership, partnership.....
- Little or no expenditure in resources – do “things” differently
- “One size fits all” approach won’t work

**** MOST IMPORTANT ****

LESSON

**MOST FORD BORNE ILLNESSES ARE
CAUSED BY PEOPLE – THEIR
KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, PRACTISES**

THE KEYS TO CHANGE ARE FOUND IN

- **COMMUNICATION**
- **TRUST**
- **UNDERSTANDING**

The background is a blue gradient, transitioning from a lighter blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom. Overlaid on this gradient are several diagonal stripes of a slightly different shade of blue, running from the top-left towards the bottom-right. The word "Questions" is centered in the middle of the image.

Questions