



OUR FOOD – OUR HEALTH

The health of people in society is directly related to the health of crops and produce, food animals and the environments in which they are produced. The availability of safe food improves the health of people and is a basic human right. Our food supply and our pet's food supply are becoming increasingly global.



THE CHALLENGES

New challenges to our food safety await us in a global economy. The U.S. is increasingly becoming more dependent on foods from the global community and as such our society will be exposed to the food and waterborne pathogens from around the globe.

- 2.2 million people die annually world-wide from foodborne and waterborne diseases.
- In the United States as many as 3,000 people die of a foodborne illness each year, and 127,000 people are hospitalized.
- One in six people in the U.S. each year will become sick from a foodborne illness.
- The estimated annual economic cost of foodborne illness in the U.S. is \$77 billion.
- Roughly 15 percent of America's food supply, including 50% of its produce and 80% of its seafood, is imported.

(Source: World Health Organization, CDC and FDA)

WHAT WIFSS IS DOING ABOUT IT

WIFSS extension and education programs are identifying, and more specifically, preventing future foodborne outbreaks, by focusing on reducing the risk factors leading to contamination of raw agricultural products and reducing the pathogens associated with animal products.

WIFSS addresses a comprehensive program for food safety through its collaborations across schools – veterinary and agriculture; and across disciplines – food animal production, plant science, genomics, food science, diagnostics, epidemiology, microbiology, ecology, wildlife biology, environmental science, and social sciences.

