

SPS
CHALLENGES
FOR U.S.
AGRICULTURE

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS— WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

Codex Nomenclature

- ▶ *Codex Alimentarius*: the Food Code –
A collection of standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and other recommendations relative to food
- ▶ *Codex Commission*: the Governing Body

Over 50 Years of Success

- ▶ 4,100 MRLs for food additives
- ▶ 5,200 MRLs for 300 pesticides
- ▶ 625 MRLs covering 63 veterinary drugs
- ▶ 100 MRLs for food contaminants
- ▶ 150 Guidelines, Codes of Practice, Risk Management recommendations

Key Codex Committees

- ▶ *Food Hygiene
- ▶ *Residues of Veterinary
Drugs in Foods
- ▶ Food Additives
- ▶ Pesticide Residues
- ▶ Contaminants in Foods

Science is the Foundation of Codex

- ▶ Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)
- ▶ Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)
- ▶ Joint Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)
- ▶ Joint Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU)

Veterinary Drug Challenges

- ▶ Beef Hormones
- ▶ Ractopamine
- ▶ rBST
- ▶ Zilpaterol

Codex Statements of Principle

- ▶ Standards are to be based on science.
- ▶ Other factors considered should not affect the scientific basis.
- ▶ Only factors accepted on a world-wide basis should be taken into account.

So What?

- ▶ Troubling developments threaten a return to the lack of harmonization and regulatory inconsistency that led to the creation of Codex 50 years ago.

Meeting the Challenge

- ▶ Codex procedures need to be enforced.
- ▶ U.S. and allies need to push FAO and WHO.
- ▶ Need to continue Codex successes but remove threats to scientific basis.