ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Signaling Food Safety: Pathogen Rates of Raw Poultry with Food Safety Certifications

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB): ERR

[X] Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service USDA

[ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: The GFSI has emerged as a leading industry-led food safety framework. Its main purpose is to harmonize standards across different food-safety certifiers and reduce foodborne illness risks. Nevertheless, can these certification programs reduce pathogens in raw poultry products? This report analyzes the relationship between GFSI-recognized certifications and pathogen detection rates in raw poultry products. We focus on three prominent certifications: Safe Quality Food, Brand Reputation through Compliance Global Standard, and Food Safety System Certification 22000. Understanding the impact of GFSI-recognized certifications can be valuable for public health, market efficiency, and policy direction. Foodborne illnesses attributable to poultry cost the United States nearly $9 billion annually (Scharff 2020). If the certifications do not reliably reduce food safety risks, they may be an inefficient use of resources. This study contributes to the debate on effective strategies for safeguarding public health in the food industry. Assessing the empirical relationship between GFSI-recognized certifications and pathogen detection rates provides valuable insights for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and consumer advocacy groups.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review   [X] Individual Reviewers

[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 3/13/2025   Completed: ----

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer   [X] 4 to 10   [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency   [ ] Designated Outside Organization

Opportunities for Public Comment?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No

    If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

    How:

    When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?   [ ]   Yes   [X]   No