Regulatory Scheme and Food Safety Programs for the NSW Egg Industry based on Risk Assessments

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The NSW Food Authority recently developed a through-chain regulation for egg and egg products in the state of New South Wales, requiring businesses that fall into higher risk categories according to a science-based priority classification system to implement HACCP-based food safety programs. The development of regulatory requirements and guideline material for food safety programs was based on food safety risk assessment. While Salmonella enteritidis and avian influenza are not yet established risks in the Australia egg industry, risk management has given consideration to risks identified in animal health risk assessments.

This paper will outline how risk assessments informed risk management on a range of food safety issues relating to egg and egg products, as well as the regulatory and preventative measures that resulted. It may serve as a case study to illustrate the application of risk assessments to food safety management in animal products, the synergy between food safety risk assessment and animal health risk assessment, as applied to established and emerging food safety risks.