

**NOMINATIONS OF MINDY BRASHEARS, STELLA  
YVETTE HERRELL, AND JOHN WALK**

---

**HEARING**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

**UNITED STATES SENATE**

**ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS**

**FIRST SESSION**

---

October 29, 2025

---

Printed for the use of the  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry



Available on <http://www.govinfo.gov/>

---

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

61–814 PDF

WASHINGTON : 2025

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

JOHN BOOZMAN, Arkansas, *Chairman*

MITCH McCONNELL, Kentucky	AMY KLOBUCHAR, Minnesota
JOHN HOEVEN, North Dakota	MICHAEL F. BENNET, Colorado
JONI ERNST, Iowa	TINA SMITH, Minnesota
CINDY HYDE-SMITH, Mississippi	RICHARD J. DURBIN, Illinois
ROGER MARSHALL, Kansas	CORY BOOKER, New Jersey
TOMMY TUBERVILLE, Alabama	BEN RAY LUJAN, New Mexico
JAMES C. JUSTICE, West Virginia	RAPHAEL WARNOCK, Georgia
CHARLES GRASSLEY, Iowa	PETER WELCH, Vermont
JOHN THUNE, South Dakota	JOHN FETTERMAN, Pennsylvania
DEB FISCHER, Nebraska	ADAM SCHIFF, California
JERRY MORAN, Kansas	ELISSA SLOTKIN, Michigan

FITZHUGH ELDER IV, Majority Staff Director  
COREY WEBER, Majority Chief Counsel  
JESSICA L. WILLIAMS, Chief Clerk  
LAUREN SANTABAR, Minority Staff Director  
CHU-YUAN HWANG, Minority Chief Counsel



# C O N T E N T S

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

	Page
HEARING:	
Nominations of Mindy Brashears, Stella Yvette Herrell, and John Walk .....	1

## STATEMENTS PRESENTED BY SENATORS

Boozman, Hon. John, U.S. Senator from the State of Arkansas .....	1
Klobuchar, Hon. Amy, U.S. Senator from the State of Minnesota .....	2

## WITNESS

Brashears, Mindy, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety .....	5
Herrell, Yvette, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture ....	7
Walk, John, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture ...	8

## APPENDIX

PREPARED STATEMENTS:	
Brashears, Mindy .....	28
Herrell, Yvette .....	30
Walk, John .....	32
DOCUMENT(S) SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD:	
Boozman, Hon. John:	
National Chicken Council, National Pork Producers, National Turkey Federation, and Meat Institute in support of Mindy Brashears, letter of support .....	34
United Council on Welfare Fraud in support of John Walk, letter of support .....	35
Warnock, Hon. Raphael:	
Letter submitted by Raphael Warnock .....	36
Durbin, Hon. Richard:	
Letter submitted by Richard Durbin .....	38
Fetterman, Hon. John:	
Letters submitted by John Fetterman .....	40
Brashears, Mindy:	
Committee questionnaire, Office of Government Ethics Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report and 5-day letter filed by Mindy Brashears .....	58
Herrell, Yvette:	
Committee questionnaire, Office of Government Ethics Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report and 5-day letter filed by Yvette Herrell .....	164
Walk, John:	
Committee questionnaire, Office of Government Ethics Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Report and 5-day letter filed by John Walk .....	197

# IV

	Page
QUESTION AND ANSWER:	
Brashears, Mindy:	
Written response to questions from Hon. Amy Klobuchar .....	228
Written response to questions from Hon. John Fetterman .....	229
Written response to questions from Hon. Tina Smith .....	230
Written response to questions from Hon. John Hoeven .....	231
Written response to questions from Hon. Raphael Warnock .....	231
Written response to questions from Hon. Adam Schiff .....	232
Herrell, Yvette:	
Written response to questions from Hon. Amy Klobuchar .....	234
Written response to questions from Hon. Raphael Warnock .....	235
Written response to questions from Hon. Peter Welch .....	235
Written response to questions from Hon. John Fetterman .....	235
Written response to questions from Hon. Adam Schiff .....	236
Walk, John:	
Written response to questions from Hon. Amy Klobuchar .....	237
Written response to questions from Hon. John Fetterman .....	239
Written response to questions from Hon. Ben Ray Lujan .....	240
Written response to questions from Hon. Peter Welch .....	244
Written response to questions from Hon. Cory Booker .....	245
Written response to questions from Hon. Adam Schiff .....	248
Written response to questions from Hon. Raphael Warnock .....	259

## **NOMINATIONS OF MINDY BRASHEARS, STELLA YVETTE HERRELL, AND JOHN WALK**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025**

U.S. SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
*Washington, DC.*

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 3:03 p.m., in Room 106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. John Boozman, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Boozman [presiding], Hoeven, Ernst, Marshall, Klobuchar, Bennet, Smith, Durbin, Lujan, Warnock, and Schiff.

Also present: Representative Arrington.

### **STATEMENT OF HON. BOOZMAN, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, CHAIRMAN, U.S. COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

Chairman BOOZMAN. Good afternoon and welcome. It is my privilege to call this hearing to order.

Today, we will consider the nomination of Dr. Mindy Brashears to serve as Under Secretary of Food Safety, Representative Stella Yvette Herrell to serve as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Affairs and External Relations, and Mr. John Walk to serve as Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture. We welcome all of you to the Committee and congratulate you on the nominations. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Starting with Dr. Brashears, the work of the food safety mission is one of the most consequential responsibilities of USDA. Ensuring the safety of U.S. food supply is critical and extraordinarily complex. Dr. Brashears knows this well, having led this mission area through the pandemic, one of the most challenging times in the history of our food supply chain. Sound science must continue to be the foundation of our food safety regulatory system. This is essential to deliver confidence and certainty to consumers, producers, processors, and our trading partners.

Our food safety systems must also continue to adapt and modernize to best protect public health, as well as support our producers and processors who rely on federal and state inspection services to deliver a safe, efficient food supply. I was pleased earlier this year USDA extended the line speed waivers for the pork and poultry processors after years of duplicative study confirmed what decades of research already indicated, and I look forward to hearing more about the Department's work to develop a long-term program consistent with the latest scientific advancements.

This Committee's work to expeditiously advance Dr. Brashears' nomination will help us ensure Food Safety and Inspection Service remains the gold standard worldwide for meat, poultry, and egg product safety.

Now, to Representative Herrell, the Office of Congressional Affairs and External Relations serves as a vital link between the Department and Congress. Members and their staff rely on this office for timely information, technical assistance, oversight support, and to elevate and find solutions to constituent priorities. This relationship is key to carrying out our shared goal of supporting farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. As a former Member of Congress, Representative Herrell most certainly understands this.

Finally, Mr. Walk, the Office of the Inspector General is responsible for conducting oversight and ensuring the proper administration of USDA's nearly 300 programs. Any incident of fraud, waste, or misuse of government funds is certainly unacceptable, and the IG's office plays an essential role in preventing these incidents and addressing such issues. A proactive and attentive Inspector General is essential to protecting the integrity of USDA and ensuring good stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

I want to again congratulate Dr. Brashears, Representative Herrell, and Mr. Walk on their nominations. I look forward to hearing how they will use their prospective roles to serve and benefit American agriculture and the American people.

With that, I now turn to our Ranking Member and partner, Senator Klobuchar.

**STATEMENT OF HON. KLOBUCHAR, U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Senator KLOBUCHAR. All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Welcome to Dr. Brashears, as well as Representative Herrell and Mr. Walk. I have met with all three of you over the last week or so, and thank you for being with us.

I also see that Representative Arrington is here, and thank you for being here.

I would also like to welcome all of your families. I know that Dr. Brashears' family members, colleagues, students, and friends are with us, including her husband, Todd, her daughters—everyone is a doctor—Dr. Todd Brashears, Dr. Bailey Brashears, Dr. Reagan Brashears, and Presley.

I would also like to welcome Representative Herrell's family here, her sister, Fran, as well as Mr. Walk's wife, Ruth, and his four daughters, who appear to be in the front row. Am I right? Okay. Grace, Hannah, Joanna, and Phoebe. Thank you all for being here.

The nominees before us will have crucial roles within the USDA, and I look forward to today's discussion. We think we all know there is a lot on our minds right now with the shutdown and with our concern on SNAP. I want to thank Senator Luján for his work on that, but I am going to focus today on these nominees.

The Food Safety Inspection Service is charged with protecting public health by ensuring the safety of the Nation's meat, poultry, and egg supply. As we talked yesterday, the FSIS is a key line of defense from dangerous pathogens like Salmonella, and inspectors

are hard at work. As Senator Smith knows, our State of Minnesota is known for its work in this area, with what was once called Team Diarrhea—we are not going to go into that—but they are known for tracking down the source of foodborne illnesses, and so we care a lot about this and the work that goes on in this agency. I know Dr. Brashears has served in this role before, and we look forward to hearing about her experience and how she can use that experience from the past for now.

Congressional Relations, a portal for the information we need to draft legislation, conduct oversight, and respond to our constituents, we are concerned, as I noted to Representative Herrell, about this reorg plan that came out from the Department of Agriculture. Members on both sides of the aisle have expressed concerns about that, and it was an example where, with maybe some early discussions and someone in place in Congressional Relations, perhaps it would have made a difference, as well as getting our questions answered. We are really focused on that, and I appreciated our meeting.

Mr. Walk, as we discussed last week, the Congress relies on the USDA Inspector General to be the cop on the beat at the Department, keeping an eye out for fraud, waste, abuse, as well as everything that goes on in that department. We are very concerned about the mass firings of IGs across the Administration, and it is more important than ever that the independence and the integrity of the USDA's IG Office be protected.

Mr. Walk, we discussed that you had served in other roles with this and the prior Trump Administration, and we had a good discussion about the importance of independence in this role.

I look forward to hearing about the vision that all of you will bring to the USDA, and I look forward to hearing the testimony.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you. We will now introduce our nominees. I want to welcome Jodey Arrington, of Texas, to the Committee, who is certainly more than well-known in agriculture. We appreciate all of your hard work in so many different ways, and he is going to be introducing our first nominee.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and distinguished Members of this Committee, it is both an honor and privilege to introduce to you today a dedicated public servant, world-class scientist, and true champion for rural America and agriculture, and by the way, a very dear friend and former colleague and proud fellow Red Raider—get your guns up, Mindy—Dr. Mindy Brashears.

She was raised on a cotton farm in Wheeler, Texas, and Mrs. Brashears embodies the values of small-town USA. Hard work, humility, and integrity, her academic credentials include a Bachelor's Degree in Food Technology from Texas Tech and both a master's and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State, whose Cowboys, ironically, Mr. Chairman, lost a big football game to Texas Tech last weekend, 42 to nothing, and that is for Mr. Markwayne Mullin, if you would deliver that message for me, I would appreciate it.

Dr. Brashears is no stranger to this Committee. She was confirmed for this role in the first Trump Administration, where she

led important reforms to modernizing the inspection system, strengthening public health protections, and ensuring that America's food supply remained the safest in the world, an achievement that will no doubt continue under Mrs. Brashears' strong leadership.

Over the last several years, Dr. Brashears has served at my alma mater, Texas Tech University, leading groundbreaking research that has reduced E. coli and Salmonella in our food supply. As one of the foremost experts in the world on food safety, she has not only used her expertise to help the United States but to support many of our allies around the globe.

More important than her impressive accolades and accomplishments, Mindy is a woman of deep faith and of great character, and she is a devoted wife and mother, and like I said earlier, a proud rural American. She and her husband, Dr. Todd Brashears, who is also a professor at Texas Tech, have raised three outstanding young ladies, Bailey, Reagan, and Presley. Together, the Brashears family represents, in my humble opinion, the very best of West Texas, a love for God and people, a commitment to serving their community, and a passion for all things agriculture and rural America. I assure you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, you will not find a more capable, committed, and trustworthy leader for safeguarding America's food supply.

For these reasons, I proudly and unequivocally endorse the confirmation of Dr. Mindy Brashears and urge your support for her as the next Under Secretary for Food Safety at the United States Department of Agriculture. Thank you for your consideration, Mr. Chairman.

I also served with Yvette Herrell, and just for your indulgence, please, she is an outstanding person and patriot, and she served this country with great distinction. My district was contiguous with hers in eastern New Mexico. It is just like one big, happy ag community out there. I am so excited for her new venture at USDA if you all would endorse and confirm her, and I certainly give my wholehearted recommendation for that confirmation.

With that, I yield back. Thank you.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Well, thank you, Representative Arrington, very much for being here and providing such a warm endorsement of Dr. Brashears, and then also your comments about Yvette Herrell are very much appreciated, so thank you very much.

Our second nominee is Representative Stella Yvette Herrell. Representative Herrell is nominated to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Affairs and External Relations. She previously served in the House of Representatives from 2021 to 2023, representing New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District. She also served eight years in the New Mexico House of Representatives. Outside of her public service, Representative Herrell has started several small businesses and works as a real estate broker in New Mexico.

Thank you, Representative Herrell, for appearing before the Committee, and we look forward to hearing your testimony.

Our third nominee is Mr. John Walk. Mr. Walk is nominated to be Inspector General of the USDA. Mr. Walk has an extensive career in federal service, starting as a congressional staffer in the

House of Representatives. After attending law school, he went on to serve as an attorney at the Department of Homeland Security and Associate Counsel to President Trump in his first term. Mr. Walk joined USDA in 2020, where he has now served across three Administrations as USDA's Judicial Officer.

Earlier this year, Mr. Walk briefly served as the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services before being named Senior Advisor to the Secretary. Mr. Walk received his bachelor's degree from Occidental College and his J.D. from George Mason University, Antonin Scalia Law School.

Thank you, Mr. Walk, for appearing before the Committee, and we look forward to your testimony.

Again, thank all of you for your willingness to serve and being here. I will now administer the oath and then begin with witness testimonies. Each witness will have five minutes. Please stand and raise your right hand.

Do you swear or affirm that the statements you are about to provide is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Yes.

Ms. HERRELL. I do.

Mr. WALK. I do.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Do you agree that if confirmed, you will respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted Committee of the Senate?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Yes.

Ms. HERRELL. Yes.

Mr. WALK. Yes.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Very good. Thank you.

Dr. Brashears, you are now recognized.

#### **STATEMENT OF MINDY BRASHEARS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SAFETY**

Dr. BRASHEARS. Thank you so much.

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and Members of the Committee, I thank you for inviting me here today to testify before you. I am honored to be nominated by President Trump and for the support of Secretary Brooke Rollins to be considered for the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety. I want to thank Congressman and good friend Jodey Arrington for the kind introduction.

If confirmed, I would be honored to serve the citizens of the United States a second time in this position to ensure that the United States maintains the safest food supply in the world. I have dedicated my career to studying food safety and focusing on the safety of the meat and poultry supply.

Today, I am blessed to have many people here to support me. My husband, Todd, my daughters, Bailey, Reagan, and Presley, joining virtually, and my daughter-in-law, Victoria, along with my mom, Becky, and many other family, friends, and colleagues.

I have devoted my professional career preparing for this role. I grew up on a farm in West Texas where I was raised, and my parents instilled in me a love of agriculture and a strong work ethic. I was active in FFA and 4-H in high school and went to college on

a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarship. I hold a B.S. in Food Technology from Texas Tech and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University in Food Science, specializing in food microbiology. I have spent 25 years as a research scientist studying foodborne pathogens in meat and poultry environments while simultaneously mentoring the next generation of food safety leaders as a university professor.

When I held the position of Under Secretary for Food Safety in the first Trump Administration, I had the opportunity not only to put my technical knowledge into practice, but also had the chance to implement science-based food safety policies to advance the mission of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. If confirmed into this position, it will be a top priority for me to make decisions based on sound science and to develop and implement policies that are scientifically strong and practical and, most importantly, ones that will result in a meaningful impact on public health outcomes.

Some of my greatest accomplishments the first time in this office were modernizing swine and egg inspection systems at FSIS and establishing a culture of data-driven, science-based decision making at the agency. I also oversaw programs such as laboratory accreditation and spearheaded programs that improve the efficiency of testing and sampling methods for the agency. I was committed to strengthening our workforce through recruitment programs at universities and vet schools. Additionally, I developed a strong connection with other agencies within USDA and across the government, including collaborations with FDA and CDC.

Since leaving the position the first time, I have spent the past four years redirecting my research program at Texas Tech to generate data that is practical to inform public policy. I have been on the frontlines of food safety, which has provided me with the first-hand knowledge to effectively lead the food safety work at USDA.

I have spent many days collecting samples in beef, pork, and poultry plants, mapping pathogens such as Salmonella, E. coli, and Listeria through the various stages of processing from the lairage areas when the livestock first entered the establishment to when the final product enters commerce. In our research lab, we have developed new methods and interventions to better understand and target key pathogens of concern. My team and I have been laser focused on how to make the meat and poultry supply safer for consumers.

In addition to my professional experiences, my practical life roles as a mother, a wife, and a daughter have given me the strong perspective of a consumer. Additionally, my faith in God is the foundation for decision-making in my life. I want to thank Him for my family, my education, and experiences, and this opportunity that has been placed before me. Ultimate wisdom comes from above, and I will rely on this personally and professionally.

Members of the Committee, I appreciate the time you have taken to be here today. I am humbled by the nomination, and I would be honored to serve as Under Secretary. My experience and technical expertise have prepared me for this role, and if confirmed, I will make data-driven decisions to ensure food safety of the U.S. meat, poultry, and processed egg supply.



Thank you for your time today and for considering me for this important role. I look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Brashears can be found on pages 28–29 in the appendix.]

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you, Dr. Brashears.  
Representative HERRELL.

**STATEMENT OF STELLA YVETTE HERRELL, OF NEW MEXICO,  
TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE**

Ms. HERRELL. Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am also grateful to the committee staff and everyone who worked diligently on the paperwork, interviews, and meetings in preparation for this hearing. I want to thank my sister for making the trip out, and I hope my parents are watching online.

I am honored by President Trump's nomination to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Congressional Relations at USDA. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee to communicate policy ideas, solutions, and resolutions not only to Members and staff on Capitol Hill, but also to USDA leadership and stakeholders.

Preparing for this process has allowed me to reflect on my own path. I grew up in rural New Mexico, active in 4-H and FFA, raising livestock and working on our small family ranch. Those experiences grounded me in the realities of agriculture, and I developed a profound understanding of how and where our food sources come from. I have a deep appreciation for our farming and ranching entities as well as the natural resource industries that shoulder the risks, while at the same time provide the stewardship necessary to keep our lands productive for future generations.

I have long believed that agriculture should be a place where policy rises above partisanship. Good ideas deserve a fair hearing regardless of which party proposes them, and if confirmed, my goal is to bridge gaps, earn trust on both sides of the aisle, and ensure information flows quickly, accurately, and consistently.

Throughout my career, whether serving New Mexicans or operating small businesses, relationships have been the constant. I have worked at USAA as a policy service specialist, owned and operated several small businesses like Holiday Kennels and Alamo Earthwork and Paving. I am a licensed associate real estate broker. I served in the New Mexico House for eight years and later in the U.S. House of Representatives. In each role, listening first, then following through, built the partnerships that make problem-solving possible. At almost every point in my career, the relationships I cultivated proved paramount to my success.

Public service also means being there when people are hurting. I have volunteered across the country with Habitat for Humanity and Hands of Grace, including after Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and during tornado season in Nebraska—helping families clean up, rebuild, and find their footing. Those experiences taught me to work shoulder-to-shoulder with people from every background to keep compassion at the center of every decision.

Constituent Services is where promises become performance. In Congress, my office handled more than 2,800 constituent requests with a 98 percent resolution rate because timely, accurate communication is not a courtesy, it is our duty. If confirmed, my first priorities at USDA will be to strengthen the Office of Congressional Relations' responsiveness, modernize our communication and IT workflows where needed, and give every Member and staffer a clear, fast lane to the information and assistance they need.

Beyond responsiveness, I am committed to enhancing transparency and accountability by establishing predictable response timelines, clear points of contact, and consistent performance metrics to ensure that no request is overlooked.

I also want to acknowledge Senator Ben Ray Luján, my fellow New Mexican and colleague, I appreciated working within the House and across our state. Senator, thank you for your partnership on issues that matter to New Mexico's farmers, ranchers, Pueblos, Tribes, and rural communities. I look forward to continuing that collaboration from this new role, should I be confirmed.

I have also heard a common concern in my meetings with Members and staff. Timely, reliable information must be the norm and not the exception. If confirmed, I will implement clear service standards for congressional inquiries and expand proactive briefings on emerging issues.

Several of you have also raised the broader challenge of public understanding. Agriculture is a foundational—is foundational to our economy, national security, and way of life, but too often misunderstood. I was grateful for a thoughtful conversation with Senator Justice about the need for better outreach and clear accessibility, and messaging. I commit to working with the Senator and Members of this Committee to elevate practical, bipartisan narratives that reflect the daily realities of producers and rural communities.

Finally, I want to reiterate my commitment to ethical conduct, transparency, and fidelity to congressional intent. The Office of Congressional Relations should be the most trusted front door into USDA for every Member, staffer, and stakeholder. My pledge is simple. Listen carefully, respond quickly, and work relentlessly until the job is done.

Thank you, Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Members, and staff for your time and consideration. If confirmed, I will be honored to partner with you to serve America's farmers, ranchers, foresters, and rural families with the urgency and respect they deserve. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Herrell can be found on pages 30–31 in the appendix.]

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. WALK.

#### **STATEMENT OF JOHN WALK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Mr. WALK. Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Nutrition and Forestry, thank you for the opportunity

to address my nomination for Inspector General of the United States Department of Agriculture. I am joined by my wife, Ruth, and our four daughters, Grace, Hannah, Joanna, and Phoebe. I am grateful they are at my side, and with humility, I express my deepest thanks to President Trump for his nomination to this very important role.

Transparency that enables accountability is fundamental to our democratic system of government and necessary to the preservation of liberty. Like at other federal departments, the American people must have the means to acquire knowledge about the work of USDA as part of their exercise of self-government. Inspectors General perform a crucial function to promote transparency by informing the public of waste, fraud, and abuse in the administration of federal programs, that is essential for the American people to hold government accountable for its decisions and conduct.

At USDA, the Department is entrusted with stewarding more than \$200 billion of taxpayer funds annually and manages more than 300 programs in support of farmers, ranchers, and the American public. USDA authorities include farm programs, rural development, agriculture research, food safety, nutrition, trade promotion, animal and plant health, forest management, animal welfare, disaster response, federal benefits programs, including SNAP and WIC, and other important areas. It is critical for USDA's OIG to shine a bright light on the many activities of the Department and its management of resources so that USDA carries out its mission effectively and efficiently and with due accountability to the American people.

If confirmed, I will assume the responsibilities of Inspector General with the benefit of nearly 25 years of federal experience from my entry-level roles to senior leadership positions. My federal service began as a records clerk at the Department of Justice while I was still in high school. After graduating from college, I served as a staffer in the House of Representatives for more than five years. Following law school in 2008, I entered the career civil service through the Department of Homeland Security's Honors Attorney Program. During my eight years at DHS, I provided legal counsel to ensure the Department exercised its authorities in compliance with all legal requirements to secure our homeland while maintaining the constitutional rights of Americans.

At DHS, I was also involved in litigating numerous federal lawsuits alleging claims for legal violations and investigated many allegations against the agency and its employees.

Immediately after DHS, I was honored to serve President Donald J. Trump for nearly four years during his first term as Associate Counsel at the White House Counsel's Office.

After my service at the White House, I began my tenure as USDA's Judicial Officer, a job I still hold in addition to Senior Advisor to the Secretary. As Judicial Officer, I am the Department's appellate-level administrative judge deciding formal agency adjudication, enforcing various USDA legal authorities. As such, for nearly five years, I have served as USDA's deciding official in administrative litigation under the delegation of three Senate confirmed Secretaries of Agriculture of both political parties. In this role, I exercise objective and independent judgment to draw factual

and legal conclusions based on the evidence. It is a role that requires impartiality, fairness, and fidelity to the law and facts as they are found without regard to politics.

If confirmed, I will approach the role of Inspector General with the same objectivity and independent mindedness to expose waste, fraud, and abuse as it is found. I would draw on my almost quarter-century of service in the Federal Government to carry out the oversight functions of this important role.

You know, in the Bible, Jesus said, “Nothing is hidden except to be revealed, nor has anything been secret but that it would come to light.” That is exactly as it should be in government. Given the opportunity to serve as IG, I will work tirelessly to bring the work of the USDA into the light, keeping USDA leadership, Congress, and ultimately the American people, fully informed of deficiencies and problems in the Department’s administration of its programs to strengthen transparency and public accountability.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Walk can be found on pages 32–33 in the appendix.]

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you, and thank all of our witnesses for providing their testimony today. We will now begin with one round of questions. Each Member will have five minutes.

Before I ask my questions, I would like to add letters of support from various stakeholders for Dr. Brashears, Representative Herrell, and Mr. Walk’s nomination into the record. Without objection, so ordered.

[The letters can be found on pages 34–35 in the appendix.]

Chairman BOOZMAN. Dr. Brashears, addressing Salmonella is a key component of USDA’s five-pronged plan announced earlier this year to bolster food safety. This involves developing a new Salmonella framework after significant concerns were raised by stakeholders with the previous proposal. Based on your extensive experience with this pathogen, how do you think we can make progress in reducing the prevalence of Salmonella illness?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that question. I am very happy to answer this. I—Salmonella is one of my top priorities. In—before I left this position previously, I rolled out the Salmonella roadmap, and one of the foundational principles on that—in that roadmap was making data-driven and science-based decisions. As we know, there has been little movement in Salmonella illnesses based on healthy people, 2020 goals, and so forth and so forth. However, the technology has moved ahead to—for us to be able to identify highly pathogenic Salmonella, and we need to start targeting the most pathogenic strains of Salmonella.

This work has actually been done at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, Nebraska, where they have identified this, and it is being developed into rapid methodologies. We will be focusing on the most pathogenic Salmonella, and removing that from the food supply should have an impact on our public health outcomes. Thank you.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Walk, during the pandemic, the nonprofit organization Feeding Our Future defrauded the Federal Government of over \$250

million, funds intended to feed kids through the Summer Meals Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. While the scheme was made public in 2022, last year, our Committee learned that the USDA's OIG failed to act on multiple clear warning signs, allowing the criminal acts of Feeding Our Future to go unaddressed for years.

The Justice Department has now issued over 50 convictions. This situation could have been largely avoided had there been proper oversight. That, I think, includes proper oversight from this Committee, which is a function that is so important. Mr. Walk, do you commit to ensuring your office will be attentive and conduct thorough investigations into any fraudulent activity related to USDA programs?

Mr. WALK. Senator, I do, across all of our 300-plus programs, yes.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you very much. Representative Herrell, as a former Member of Congress, you know the relationship between the Department and Congress is vital. What is your plan to work with offices to keep them informed and be responsive to congressional inquiries? Again, in your past post, you know how important this is and the difference that it makes.

Ms. HERRELL. Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do. In fact, as a Member of Congress, I myself had submitted a letter of inquiry to OCR and waited over 600 days for a response. If confirmed, I would like to get in and change the protocols. I would like to create meetings more consistent with Members and staff to understand their priorities and look at ways that we can enhance the response programs. We could look at updating some of our systems and the protocols that are certainly in place now, but how can we update those and work collectively with Members and the staff to ensure that the important information each of you need is being distributed in a timely fashion?

Chairman BOOZMAN. Very good. Dr. Brashears, in addition to addressing Salmonella, can you briefly speak to some of your other goals in returning to lead the food safety mission area at USDA?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Yes, sir. Thank you again. In addition to Salmonella, we have to stay focused on other pathogens, specifically E. coli. We cannot forget about E. coli and Listeria. As we know, there has been major issues with Listeria in the past couple of years, so we will be focused on that.

Beyond that, we have to make sure our workforce is strong and recruit veterinarians into FSIS because our workforce is, at least when I was there previously, and if confirmed, I will be committed to developing programs with vet schools to recruit and bring those vets into the agency.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Very good. Senator Klobuchar.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

I think I will start with you, Dr. Brashears. You are a scientist with a respected academic position at a major university, and I think you know FSIS has one of the most critical roles within the Department with safety. Sadly, in other agencies, there has been increasing concern about not following science. If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service follows sound and effective science?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Thank you, Ranking Member Klobuchar. Absolutely. I am entering this position as a scientist. I will leave as a scientist and maintain that integrity.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much. As you and I talked about, FSIS has fewer employees, 700 fewer employees now than it had in 2024. That is about an eight percent loss in staff, although most of its staff are already located outside the region. The reorganization plan does not address how it will affect the staff members that are here. FSIS has lost about 700 people, as I mentioned, and on top of that, USDA is planning to reorg the agency into four hubs.

Dr. Brashears, are you concerned about employee retention of key employees, including food safety experts, those who help coordinate foodborne illness outbreaks, and how are you going to respond to that if and when you get in the job?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Yes, thank you again. If confirmed, I will definitely be working with universities. I have a really strong network of food safety professionals who are turning out graduate students and even undergrads, and we will be working with them to make them aware of jobs in the government. Typically, those are not the first ones that students think about, so recruitment is going to be important.

Retention is also important to me in maintaining a positive work environment, listening to the employees, and I will be open to that. If confirmed, it will be a priority for me.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Very good. Again, I just think getting back some of these employers or rehiring, hiring new ones, is going to be really critical in addition to the partnerships.

The Food Safety Inspection Service is responsible for ensuring that foreign trading partners meet the high standards of our domestic food safety parameters. With the Administration's recent proposal to drastically increase imports of beef from Argentina, if confirmed, will you commit to conducting a new audit to ensure the safety of any potential new beef imports?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Thank you again. Yes, we have 100 percent inspection at the border, and I do think that it is important that if that is increased, that we ensure that safety, we have enough people at the border and audit them and make sure they are meeting the standards, because we will not compromise food safety.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. I am not going to go into my whole issues with all the beef when we have beef here, but I thought that was a very important question to ask, given the numbers, the exponential increase that the Administration is looking at for Argentinian beef.

In 2009, you and I talked about this: a Salmonella outbreak in peanut butter led to nine deaths, including one in Minnesota. I got very involved, worked with Senator Isakson at the time because the company involved in this, that people were later prosecuted, was located in Georgia, and he rose to the occasion, and we worked together to have these Centers of Excellence on foodborne illnesses. If confirmed, will you commit to working alongside with other public health agencies—and I know you talked about the universities and your relationships—but also the FDA and CDC to investigate and protect consumers?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Yes, ma'am, absolutely. That is a very critical part of this role.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay. Thank you. Representative Herrell, I appreciated our meeting. I think you know, not just from me, but from other Members, that there are several requests for information that our office and our staff and other offices have made to the Office of Congressional Relations. We have not received a response yet. This includes specific requests that I made for information about the reorganization, as well as popular programs like the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and the Rural Energy for America Program. If confirmed, will you commit to working with me and my staff to get responses to these requests expeditiously?

Ms. HERRELL. Yes, Ranking—

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you.

Ms. HERRELL. Yes, Ranking Member, I do.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Will you commit to answering the requests of other Members as well in an expeditious manner?

Ms. HERRELL. Yes. In fact, I believe that would be the priority for this department, to create better relationships with all the Members and their staff and to share the information that I know each of you will need for your constituencies.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay. Very good. The USDA did not notify Congress in advance of the reorganization announcement. Moreover, despite repeated Republican and Democratic requests for a bipartisan shutdown briefing, common practice in the past, USDA only provided a briefing to the Republican staff. To our knowledge, that has not happened in the past. Congress did not receive the advance notice, and so I talked with you about this. Obviously, you were not there. If confirmed, will you commit to providing bipartisan briefings, including prior to significant public announcements by the Department?

I just—this Committee continues to function in some very difficult times. We just passed a bunch of important bills and have nothing but civility among the Members on this Committee, and I thank the Chairman for that. It seems to me like not notifying any of us about the reorg plan and then, which was major for half the employees in the USDA in Washington for us, knowing that we will not have people in the room where it happens if it happens.

Second, the idea that we were not even briefed on the shutdown plan when in the past they have was very troubling to us. It just does not reflect the tone or the relationships or what has been going on in this Committee, including a number of our Democratic Members supporting not just bills, but also some of the nominees that have been put forward by the Administration.

My question is, if confirmed, will you commit to providing bipartisan briefings, including prior to the significant public announcements by the Department, as has been done in the past?

Ms. HERRELL. Yes, Ranking Member. I said in my opening statement that is one of the areas I really want to focus on is ensuring that you have the information necessary, not after the fact, but before. If confirmed, I look forward to sitting down with the Secretary and my staff and then being able to share some of the missing pieces with this Committee and with the Member offices so that we can all be on the same page moving forward.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you.

Mr. Walk, I know you have held career positions under both Republican and Democratic Administrations—we talked about that—but you have only held political or policy leadership roles under President Trump. How will you maintain the necessary objectivity required to conduct meaningful oversight as an Inspector General?

Mr. WALK. Ranking Member, thank you for that question. I will follow all laws and regulations regarding conflicts of interest and impairments of judgment, which applies to federal employees. I will also make sure that we review and apply all applicable professional standards, including what is provided in the Yellow Book, and as well as the AICPA, as well as judicial rules to make sure that we have auditor independence as well as investigative independence.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. If confirmed, your office will conduct audits, evaluations, or investigations of programs or policies that you helped put in place. How will you handle any conflicts of interest?

Mr. WALK. Ranking Member, thank you for that question. I would—again, I would follow all rules related to conflicts of interest within the Federal Government, and I will also rely on the advice of counsel. We also have an Office of Compliance and Integrity, which makes sure that we are following all professional standards, and I will make sure that I consult as appropriate with that office as well.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. I have gone over my time, and my colleagues are waiting, and I will put the rest in writing, and I will also direct questions to your four daughters. No, I am kidding.

Mr. WALK. Thank you.

[Laughter.]

Chairman BOOZMAN. Senator Ernst.

Senator ERNST. Thank you, Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar, and welcome to our witnesses here today.

No doubt there is an awful lot going on at USDA, and we really do need capable leaders who can keep the momentum going. I appreciate your willingness to serve in this capacity and look forward to hearing your plans on how USDA can continue to effectively support our farmers and remain accountable to the American people.

Dr. Brashears, I am going to start with you. Pork production is a major part of Iowa's ag economy, and the new swine inspection system, which was developed in 2019, was designed to modernize inspection, improve food safety, and give farmers more processing choices. Unfortunately, in 2021, there was a court ruling that halted implementation nationwide on grounds that USDA failed to deliver and consider worker safety. In response, USDA allowed six plants to participate in a time-limited trial. Under Biden's USDA, that process was stalled for years with no good reason.

The third-party research group known as the Pulse Team took far too long to finish its work, despite repeated calls from me and others on this Committee, urging then-Secretary Vilsack to quickly complete the study. Earlier this year, the Pulse Team finally did confirm what we knew all along, which was that increased line speed does not harm worker safety. I am thankful that Secretary Rollins announced USDA is moving forward with higher line



speeds nationwide, and that will expand beyond those original six plants that participated in the trial.

Dr. Brashears, should you be confirmed, will you make finalizing this rule a priority and ensure it is science-based, transparent, and provides long-overdue certainty to our pork producers?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Thank you so much for that question. If confirmed, this will be one of my top priorities. I had the honor of moving that forward in the first—the first time I was in the office, and I want to see it finalized, so absolutely.

Senator ERNST. That is great. I can tell you that folks back home—and my family had been a pork-producing family years ago—they are ready for the USDA to finish this job, and I look forward to supporting your confirmation. Thank you.

Mr. Walk, we have previously discussed my oversight of USDA's property footprint and utilization, and I am so grateful that Secretary Rollins took action on my recommendations right away, bringing employees back to work and relocating portions of the Department closer to farm country.

Chairman Boozman and I have also tasked the USDA's Office of Inspector General with reviewing this issue because the American people deserve to know how their taxpayer-funded buildings are sitting mostly empty. Just look around downtown D.C. at the ag buildings. My hunt for federal property savings is nationwide, and my Disposal Act and the For Sale Act will facilitate expedited sales of unused federal office space and will return the savings to the taxpayers. I think we will agree that it is impossible for USDA to effectively serve rural America if its offices are ghost towns, especially here in Washington, DC.

This also makes Congress' job harder, especially when crafting a farm bill. Lawmakers and taxpayers deserve timely, actionable answers from our agencies. Mr. Walk, if confirmed, will you commit to wrapping up and releasing the OIG's outstanding report on USDA building utilization? I will add, Chairman Boozman and I, when we submitted this, it was 19 months ago. Would you commit to that?

Mr. WALK. Thank you, Senator. I do.

Senator ERNST. Very easy. Thank you for that very succinct response.

I look forward as well to serving with you, Representative Herrell. We appreciate your service in Congress, and I look forward to working with you when you are confirmed. Thank you.

I yield back.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you.

Senator SMITH.

Senator SMITH. Thank you. Thank you, Chair Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar, and welcome to all of our nominees today.

Mr. Walk, I am going to direct my questions to you today, and I want to start by asking you about tribal relations. The United States of America has legal trust and treaty obligations to tribal nations, and all federal agencies have a responsibility to uphold these government-to-government relationships with tribes. As you know, this includes formal tribal consultation. USDA, honestly, does not have the best track record working with tribes, and I do

not make this as a partisan comment because this has been true under Republican and Democratic Administrations. For many years, this Committee has, in a very bipartisan way, instructed the Department, regardless of who the President is, to do better in this regard.

Mr. Walk, you did not mention in your testimony that you are currently serving, I believe, as Acting Head of the USDA Office of Tribal Relations, and so I am interested in learning a bit more about your work in that role and how you see this important government-to-government relationship with tribal nations.

Mr. WALK. Thank you, Senator. That is correct. About September, first week of September, I took over the acting responsibilities of the Office of Tribal Relations. While I was at FNCS for a brief time, I was actually the consulting official on the FDPIR program and went out to Arizona to consult with tribal governments, and I certainly understand the importance of tribal relations and the treaty obligations that we have. Just—in fact, just about two weeks ago, I accompanied the Deputy Secretary to Denver to consult with both Indian—I am sorry, both tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporation leaders on the reorganization of USDA and how that would impact tribal governments. We also held a separate consultation here in Washington, DC. We are expecting for comments to come in within that 30-day period.

I do say that I am not expected to be the permanent lead in that office, but I have had conversations with our tribal liaisons and so forth and do understand that our history in terms of taking formal consultations with the importance that it deserves has not been where it should be over time. I am speaking in terms of USDA in general—

Senator SMITH. Yes.

Mr. WALK [continuing]. and we do hope to address that.

Senator SMITH. Well, I think that is important. I want to just follow up. You mentioned the Food Distribution Program, FDPIR, as we—

Mr. WALK. Yes.

Senator SMITH [continuing]. strangely call it. I assume you oversaw those consultations. As you no doubt know, the FDPIR distribution program has had some serious issues, and as Inspector General, you very well may could be called on to investigate some of those issues. I am wondering how you would handle that in your role as Inspector General, having had this interaction with the program and this acting role, would you see any conflict there?

Mr. WALK. Senator, I do not see conflict there. My—again, my primary experience with the FDPIR program has been as the consulting official, but we also had some work around the Paris Brothers Warehouse situation. I believe I briefed the staff about—there was a cyber incident there that we had to—

Senator SMITH. Okay.

Mr. WALK [continuing]. work with, and I made it clear to our staff that we were not going to fail our tribal governments again with respect to that warehouse to make sure that food was delivered on time and with the kind of quality that is deserved.

Other than that, I do not think I had a significant role in the FDPIR program, but of course, conflicts of interest are very fact-

specific, and I would look at the facts of what the investigation might be and what my role was and work in terms of our professional standards to see if that is something I should step out of.

Senator SMITH. Mr. Chair, I am out of time now, but I do have a question to direct to Dr. Brashears. I will submit that to you and ask for your response in writing. It has to do with the work that I believe we can do with tribes to improve work around meat processing, something of great interest to tribes, especially those that are diversifying into bison, buffalo herds. I will follow up with my question to you directly.

Dr. BRASHEARS. Okay. Thank you.

Senator SMITH. Thank you.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you. We appreciate you bringing up the food distribution amongst the tribes. That is certainly something that I think everybody on the Committee is very concerned about.

Senator Marshall.

Senator MARSHALL. Well, thank you, Chairman, and welcome to our nominees. We look forward to supporting you across the finish line. I think I will start with Dr. Brashears. Any friend of Congressman Arrington's is a friend of mine, and I just want to give him the pistols up sign. It is not quite as powerful as a Wildcat power cat, but it would be one of my favorite places to visit as well, quite a university.

Dr. BRASHEARS. Thank you.

Senator MARSHALL. Let us start by talking about ultra-processed foods. Many of us are concerned that they negatively impact people's health. Not that I am asking you to give the definition, but how important would it be for us to figure out a definition, and are there any particular components you are looking for?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Sure. I think—oh, thank you so much for the question, Senator. I do agree that we have to have some guidelines around this, and I think, especially with regard to meat and poultry products, one of the things that has to be addressed is the nutritional value. Of course, with regard to food safety, we do need some of the chemicals and some of the processing to maintain food safety. If you think about things like beef jerky, meat sticks, sometimes that goes in the Backpack programs, but we need to be transparent to the consumer, and we need for them to understand, and we will continue to work with FDA on those definitions and to champion the cause for our consumer.

Senator MARSHALL. Great. Thank you for that answer.

One of my big goals is always to help small processing plants to help farmers and ranchers meet local producers, and farmers, ranchers—more my ranchers—to allow their products to go across state line as well. Recently, USDA stated that they will “provide additional guidance on requirements for very small meat processors serving local markets that ease compliance while maintaining safety,” safety first. What can you do? What is your vision of helping some of those smaller packing plants in particular?

Dr. BRASHEARS. I have spent my career working with the small and very small meat industries, so it is definitely a passion of mine. Many times, they are lacking the technical expertise, so connecting them with trade associations or university extension offices

where they can get that technical expertise. Also, USDA consumer safety officers, whenever I was previously in this position, we had dedicated a portion of their time to provide technical assistance to the small and very small processors. That will be important, as well as having small plant roundtables to understand what their needs are, where they can come, and we listen to them. I personally like to participate in those, so I stay on top of the needs so our agency can meet those needs, and I am committed to that.

Senator MARSHALL. Thank you. Mr. Walk, let us turn to you. The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, I am sure you are familiar in Manhattan, Kansas, home of the mighty fighting Wildcats, has fallen behind. Do you have a commitment to look into that, investigate the challenges, and then hopefully hold somebody accountable? Mr. Walk?

Mr. WALK. Senator, yes, I appreciate that question. There are serious issues with NBAF, and as a former employee of DHS, I certainly understood that there were problems on that side as well. The issues of biosecurity is essential, particularly in today's environment, and we need to make sure we have a biocontainment lab at that level, and we need to figure out what went wrong there. Yes, I—that is something that I want to make sure I watch.

Senator MARSHALL. You will follow up with us as that investigation pursues, as the law allows?

Mr. WALK. Senator, I will.

Senator MARSHALL. Okay, let us go to Ms. Herrell for a second here. I love your experience working with FFA and 4-H'ers as well. This is a—so often we look at things in silos up here. Certainly, Make America Healthy Again is very important to me. This Rural Health Transformation Fund is a priority for us as well, regenerative agriculture. It is not three different issues. To me, it is all one issue. I think that if we can educate the FFA'ers and 4-H'ers on the importance of Make America Healthy Again, regenerative agriculture, and through them, you help educate our fathers and mothers and grandmothers and grandfathers how important this regenerative agriculture is, precision agriculture is to just not the soil health, but the waters of the land as well. What could you do to help promote that communication and education so that more farmers and ranchers are focusing on soil health and water safety as well?

Ms. HERRELL. Thank you for that question. It is a very good one. I think there are so many people in our country that do not understand the importance of agriculture. Just with the meeting I had with Senator Justice, being able to come back and message. Where we work together is coming to your office, understanding some of the needs in the different states, the challenges, but then collectively put together some messaging, some kind of conversation that we can have publicly, both with producers and farmers, but also with the general public. I believe that will be part of our goal in terms of OCR.

I would like to kind of change the face or how OCR is viewed so that we can be more of a resource in terms of helping to message and meet with these FFA'ers and these 4-H'ers around the country and give them—equip them with the tools they need to have those conversations within their circles.

Senator MARSHALL. You know, inasmuch as my generation in grade school were educated about tobacco, we went home and told our parents, please quit smoking.

Ms. HERRELL. Right.

Senator MARSHALL. I think we can do the same thing, reaching our youth and saying, please reach out to your fellow producers out there and say, please, our water is not healthy in some situations. Our soil is not healthy. That would be my vision. Thank you.

Ms. HERRELL. Yes, Senator. Thank you.

Senator MARSHALL. Thank you so much, Chairman. I yield.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you, Senator Marshall.

Senator Durbin. Yes, sir. I am sorry. I am mumbling.

Senator DURBIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to the nominees.

Dr. Brashears, I spent most of my career in Congress trying to get a single food safety inspection agency and explain the alphabet soup that we currently have. I wish you good luck in the next year that I am here. I will help you if I can.

There is another topic that you have been engaged in that is near and dear to my heart, and that is known as the line speed rule. When I was working my way through college, I spent four months working in a slaughterhouse in East St. Louis, Illinois, Hunter Packing Company, now later John Morrell, and I learned what it was to work the line on the kill and the cut. I am sure you know the difference.

Dr. BRASHEARS. Yes, sir.

Senator DURBIN. The kill, of course, is when the hog meets its fate and ultimately ends up in a chilled room to be carved up the next day.

We had a union contract, and the union contract said that we were expected to process on the kill 225 hogs an hour. That was a pretty busy day, 1,800 hogs at the end of the day. I worked on that line, and I learned a lot. It was hot. It was loud. There were 240-pound hogs rushing through there, one every 15 seconds. It was dangerous as hell. People I worked with collapsed on the job, some were mauled by the machinery, and a lot of them were hurt. Some of the sharpest knives I have ever seen in my life were used by these men and women as part of their daily work, and they had the scars to show for it.

Your experience in this issue is one I want to explore for a minute. It sounds to me like the decision has been made by the Trump Administration to ignore the court ruling and to move forward with line speeds, which are unimaginable. What about the safety of the workers? Has that been taken into consideration?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Thank you so much, and thank you for putting context with your question, Senator. I really appreciate it. We—I am committed to moving forward with the modernization and listening to the results of the study, and if confirmed, we will move forward with the modernized inspection system.

However, we are—the agency is very committed to worker safety and providing safe working conditions not only for the workers in the plant as well as for our inspectors. In the report and in the response from USDA, you will—you can see from the publicly available information, the industry is urged to look at the results of that

report because, as you mentioned, the jobs can be difficult and demanding, and it urges the industry to look at the report and to develop best practices that can be followed by the industry, including knife sharpening, providing medical care, encouraging workers to take time off, and also maintaining our relationship with OSHA will be very important.

Senator DURBIN. Let me ask you a specific question. In March of this year, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Rollins announced that FSIS will extend waivers allowing pork and poultry facilities to maintain higher line speeds, and USDA will no longer require plants to submit redundant worker safety data, citing two recent studies they commissioned about line speeds and worker safety. Is the Department backing off this issue of safety?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Well, as you know, OSHA oversees worker safety, and FSIS will oversee the food safety of the product.

Senator DURBIN. In terms of the safety and the plant and the speed of the line, that was a decision you worked on in the Department of Agriculture, is not it?

Dr. BRASHEARS. The—I was not involved in that decision. I have not been in the agency or been at the table for that decision-making.

Senator DURBIN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Walk, it is unfair to think that we can ask any hard questions with your cheering section behind you and your lovely daughters and your family—

Mr. WALK. Thank you, Senator.

Senator DURBIN [continuing]. but I am going to ask you this question. President Trump's decision to fire Inspectors General, all 18 firings without providing any rationale, would put any new Inspector General in a position to worry about the job security of the undertaking. Can you tell me what you think about the firing of all these Inspectors General at one time by President Trump?

Mr. WALK. Senator, I would say that the IG Act authorizes the President to remove Inspectors General at will.

Senator DURBIN. Of course, there was a requirement in the law of notifying Congress in advance and the reason for the firing, and that was not complied with. Does that concern you?

Mr. WALK. Senator, I would say that that issue, in fact, the entire issue that our previous IG is a named plaintiff in a case specifically against USDA, so I cannot opine on that particular issue because it is an issue that was in the case—or is in the case.

Senator DURBIN. I will make one last point. On January 25, I joined the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chuck Grassley, in sending a letter notifying President Trump that he did not provide the rationale for Congress and thus had not followed the law in the firings of these Inspectors General. That was in January. We have not received any satisfactory response from President Trump on those firings. I would say if we are going to have a law, the President should be required to follow it. Thank you.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Senator Schiff.

Senator SCHIFF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Walk, during your time as Acting Deputy Under Secretary at FNS, the agency demanded that states provide USDA with personal data belonging to tens of millions of SNAP recipients and ap-

plicants. This information includes names, birthdays, addresses, Social Security numbers, and immigration status. The guidance also states that USDA has the authority to disclose any of this personal data to any government entity they deem necessary, including foreign governments. Mr. Walk, can you tell us what the legal authority is that USDA is relying on to collect, store, and share the personal data of tens of millions of Americans, including Social Security numbers, home addresses, simply because they received or applied for SNAP benefits?

Mr. WALK. Senator, I appreciate that question. My understanding is there were four requests for state data—for state recipient data. One of the requests was made in May, and so I was at FNCS. As I recall, I had no involvement in drafting or issuing that particular request, but I was aware of what was going on. I would say—I know that there is a lawsuit brought by numerous Attorneys General, and I hesitate to give my opinion in terms of what that authority might be because I—the—that may be an issue in the case.

Senator SCHIFF. Mr. Walk, if confirmed, are you committed to reviewing this policy independently, objectively, to ensure that it does not violate federal privacy laws, which protect Americans' personal data and identities?

Mr. WALK. Senator, I appreciate that question. I will say that I think the collection of data itself is something that we need to look at in general. As a 24-year federal employee, I certainly understand the privacy implications and that we have laws that protect data throughout the information lifecycle from collection to transmission, to storage, to disposal, and I will—and I want to make sure that as we use those—the data technologies, which carries promise, that we also make sure that we deploy them in a way that abides by the law.

Senator SCHIFF. I think part of the challenge that many of us have is the Inspectors General across the Federal Government were fired. No cause was provided. No notice was provided. We need those positions to be people of independence and the strength of character to blow the whistle if something is going on that is inappropriate, unethical, or unlawful. Were you to determine that either this policy, this collection of data violated the law, or some other practice did, are you prepared to inform Congress that the agency is operating in violation of law or ethics?

Mr. WALK. Senator, the Inspector General Act requires that the Inspector General keeps Congress currently and fully informed of all deficiencies and problems in its operations, so I will follow that statute.

Senator SCHIFF. Is the answer yes, then? If you were to find this policy or another policy in violation of the law, would you inform Congress?

Mr. WALK. Senator, yes, I would fulfill my obligation to Congress.

Senator SCHIFF. You would inform Congress?

Mr. WALK. If—I would inform Congress of our findings, yes.

Senator SCHIFF. Okay. You seem reluctant to make that commitment. It should not be difficult. If you discover there is a violation of the law going on and you are required by statute to inform Con-

gress, you should inform Congress, and there should not be any hesitation about it.

Let me just ask briefly in the time that I have left, Ms. Herrell, thank you for being here today and for meeting with my staff. Senator Smith and I, along with other Members of the Committee, sent a letter to USDA inquiring about the nature of canceled grants according to a June 17 departmental announcement. I am deeply concerned that these cancelations have directly impacted farmers in my state and other states and adversely impacted their ability to sustain and grow their businesses. We have yet to receive a response. Can you assure our offices that we will get an answer to that inquiry and others that we direct to you?

Ms. HERRELL. Yes, thank you, Senator. In my opening remarks, I had mentioned that it is the priority to be responsive. Responsiveness has to be the first priority for OCR because we need to be working collaboratively so that you have correct information to share with your constituents. I, myself—you were not here at the time. I, myself, as a Member of the House, had inquired a letter—had a letter of inquiry over to OCR, and it took over 600 days for a response, completely unacceptable. I understand the importance of getting this information to you quickly. I believe we can modernize the way we are responding. If confirmed, again, the responsiveness will be our first priority to ensure you have the information you need.

Senator SCHIFF. Thank you.

I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Senator Luján.

Senator LUJÁN. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Thank you for having me today. Congresswoman Herrell, it is good to see you here. I understand Fran made the journey.

Ms. HERRELL. She did.

Senator LUJÁN. Welcome as well, Fran. Yesterday, when I spoke with Yvette, she shared with me you were coming on behalf of the whole family, so you have a lot of responsibility on behalf of the whole family there as well. Welcome. I hope your journey was a good one. Do you think the Congresswoman is doing okay?

I am sorry if I am out of bounds, Mr. Chairman, asking folks in the audience questions. I will come back home here. Representative—

Chairman BOOZMAN. That is more fun.

Senator LUJÁN. I am sure you have had lots of good questions today, one asked by my colleague from California about making yourself available.

Ms. HERRELL. Yes.

Senator LUJÁN. That is where my questions always are. I mean, we come from the same state where we are a big family. Now, like all families, sometimes there is a disagreement, but you are family, and you work to make things better.

As you know, I have your phone number. You have mine. You have reached out to me when issues have been going on in parts of New Mexico that need attention. I think it surprised you when I gave you a holler back. We were able to make a big difference. That is my question here is, when confirmed, will you commit to be responsive, answer questions from colleagues in this body, re-



gardless of Democrat or Republican, regardless of party? It is about home. It is about making a difference. Is that something you can commit to?

Ms. HERRELL. Senator, yes, absolutely. I did enjoy our conversation yesterday. In the opening statement, I believe that I said this, actually, that policy should be rising above partisanship. In my opinion, USDA and the programs here should not be based on politics. Yes, the priority for me is to ensure that we have a working relationship with Members and staff. I would like to overhaul it. I would like to see more of OCR on the Hill, attending meetings, and then understanding the priorities from each Member office so that we can be quick in our responsive and respective of what your responsibilities are to your constituencies.

Senator LUJÁN. I respect that very much. With some of the recent announcements around FSA and whether some folks are going to be working, some folks not, they may have been moved around. I know that a lot of farmers and ranchers are reaching out to me. They probably were still reaching out to you as well. Just who do I talk to? I have this pending, I need a decision, I need to figure out if I am going to sell the cattle, if I am going to buy more cattle, what I am going to do with grain, whatever it is.

Ms. HERRELL. Right.

Senator LUJÁN. That is why this all matters. In the end, when we are doing constituent services, which is something we are proud of in New Mexico, we have to be able to find someone so we can talk to them and get that done, so I appreciate that.

Now, in New Mexico, Representative Herrell, as you know, we grow a lot of specialty crops, whether it is our chile. I do not know if there is anyone here from Colorado, but you are welcome because your chile came from New Mexico, so I will just leave it at that. Whether it is chile, pecans, pistachios, whatever our specialty crops are, yes or no, will you commit to making sure USDA policies do not leave specialty crop producers behind?

Ms. HERRELL. Yes.

Senator LUJÁN. Mrs. Brashears, can I ask you that same question?

Dr. BRASHEARS. Yes, sir.

Senator LUJÁN. Mr. Walk?

Mr. WALK. Yes, sir.

Senator LUJÁN. Well, there you go. I appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, we are going to hold them accountable when we get those specialty crop conversations going, so I appreciate that.

Ms. Herrell, as you know, ranchers in New Mexico and across the country, they are being squeezed right now because it is hard to be able to get those cattle, that beef to a processing facility. You know, they go to an auction house. They may acquire them there. The law right now says at that auction place, they cannot process.

Ms. HERRELL. Right.

Senator LUJÁN. They have to load them in a truck and, you know, in a state like New Mexico, if there is drought and they do not hit weight, it is dangerous for those cattle to be put on a car and make it somewhere else. Can I count on you to work with myself, Senator Ernst, who is leading the legislation, to remove bar-

riers for small and local producers? Will you commit to being a partner in that work with your role at USDA?

Ms. HERRELL. Senator, yes, absolutely.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, just in my closing remarks here, I do not mean to be partisan, and so I hope it does not come across that way. There is a food program right now called SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, that it would close down for the first time in our Nation's history, even though there is \$5 billion sitting in a fund already for the Secretary of Agriculture to tap into. I was surprised to learn that, because of some of the rules that we have in place around tariffs—and this goes back to not just the policy that pushes transfers of \$3 billion a year into food programs, but there is actually \$23 billion on top of the \$5 billion that could be used to transfer under Section 32 with tariff money.

There has been a lot of back and forth there is not enough money for these food programs and whatnot. I hope that we can work together. I have a piece of legislation I have introduced. Senator Hawley has a piece of legislation he has introduced here. Just so that we are speaking about fact, not fiction, what money is available, what money is not, what can be done, what could not be. I certainly hope for the good of all of the people that we love, some of those that we do not know in our states, when it comes to getting a meal, that we do not allow this year to be the first year that this program might close.

For whatever that is worth, Chairman, I am praying about it. A lot of people across the country are praying about it. God willing, we will find a good place to get this done. I look forward to your confirmation.

Representative Herrell, if there is a vote, I look forward to supporting you. If there is a voice vote, I will be screaming loud. Thank you for being here. Not to take away from anyone else, but we are a little partial to our brothers and sisters from New Mexico.

I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you. Senator Warnock.

Senator WARNOCK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator LUJÁN, I am also praying about this—

Senator LUJÁN. Amen.

Senator WARNOCK [continuing]. these SNAP recipients. There is a Ghanaian proverb that says, when you pray, move your feet—

Senator LUJÁN. Amen.

Senator WARNOCK [continuing]. so we need to be praying with our lips and our legs and make sure we do not have hungry folks in this wealthiest country on the planet.

Mr. Walk, before you were Senior Advisor to Secretary Rollins—and welcome to the Committee. Before you were—

Mr. WALK. Thank you, Senator.

Senator WARNOCK [continuing]. Senior Advisor to Secretary Rollins, you were USDA's Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. Is that correct?

Mr. WALK. Yes, Senator.

Senator WARNOCK. This includes the USDA office primarily charged with managing food assistance programs, correct?

Mr. WALK. Senator, that is correct.

Senator WARNOCK. This office also administers the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which provides food to partners on the ground, including food banks, correct?

Mr. WALK. Yes, Senator.

Senator WARNOCK. Mr. Walk, as acting head of this office, did you participate in any way in carrying out this Administration's nutrition policy of abruptly canceling \$500 million or about 94 million pounds of food headed toward our food banks and meant to feed hungry Americans? Yes or no?

Mr. WALK. Senator, no, I was not.

Senator WARNOCK. You were not involved in that at all?

Mr. WALK. No.

Senator WARNOCK. This was food intended for food banks in Georgia. I am in touch with these banks. It is interesting to me that you said you are not involved at all because when we sent a letter to the Secretary asking for more information about this decision, this decision to abruptly cancel the food bank lifeline that Congress had approved on a bipartisan basis, we sent a letter to the Secretary asking questions about this. You said you were not involved, but you responded. You responded on her behalf with a letter calling this food bank support "a slush fund." Those were your words.

Mr. Chairman, I request consent to enter this May 2025 letter signed by the nominee into the hearing record.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Without objection.

[The letters can be found on pages 36–37 in the appendix.]

Senator WARNOCK. Mr. Walk, do you still stand by your categorization of the Emergency Food Assistance Program as a "slush fund"?

Mr. WALK. Senator, I would have to go back and look. I do not have an awareness—

Senator WARNOCK. You are not aware of your own letter?

Mr. WALK. Senator, as I sit here, I do not remember that.

Senator WARNOCK. I mean, that is a pretty serious accusation that funds intended to go to food banks to support hungry people is a slush fund. The letter is in the record, but the nominee does not remember the letter that he wrote.

Food banks in Georgia disagree with that characterization, I will tell you that. They tell me that canceling this federal support has made it harder to feed hungry Georgians and has meant that more families and children in Georgia go hungry.

To add injury on top of injury, not just insult to injury, this coming weekend, because Republicans in Congress are pitting people who need healthcare against people who need food, and sometimes those are the same people, 1.4 million Georgians are about to lose SNAP. That is 1 in 8 Georgians, folks who sent me here to represent them and their families. They are facing this this weekend, and it is putting even more strain on our depleted food banks, who were robbed of \$500 million because it was deemed a slush fund, even as children go to bed hungry, God forbid, in the next few days.

Mr. Walk, are you aware of USDA's SNAP contingency fund? Yes or no? Yes or no, are you aware of it?

Mr. WALK. Sir, I am aware of that, yes.

Senator WARNOCK. Are you aware that USDA, despite bipartisan demands from Congress, is refusing to use that fund to help keep food assistance going to families after Saturday? Yes or no?

Mr. WALK. Senator, my understanding is that is now in litigation and——

Senator WARNOCK. Right, it is in litigation because the Administration is refusing to use the funds, correct? It would not be in litigation if the Administration would just use the \$5 billion that is available to use, correct, on top of the other funds that my colleague just referred to?

Mr. WALK. Sir, that is a claim in litigation, and because it is in litigation, it is not something that I can speak to.

Senator WARNOCK. It is in litigation because these are decisions that the Trump Administration that the USDA is making in real time. They are deciding to pit hungry people against sick people, and I think that is immoral. There is nothing legally stopping the Administration from making Emergency Food Assistance funds that they are just sitting on available for Georgia kids and families in November.

As I bring this to a close, Mr. Chairman, look, our parties have a disagreement, obviously. Here is where we are. Even as we debate what to do about these ACA subsidies, it is indisputable that the USDA, under the Trump Administration, is choosing to pull hungry children into this fight. They are not just in this fight. They are being pulled into this fight, used as pawns for short-term political gain. I think it is deeply immoral, and I think we can certainly do better than that.

Mr. Chairman, I yield.

Chairman BOOZMAN. Thank you.

I guess the only thing I would say, the easiest thing to do would be to end the shutdown and pass a clean CR.

With that, thank you again to Dr. Brashears, Representative Herrell, and Mr. Walk for appearing before the Committee, and to our Committee Members for their participation in today's hearing. Also, we always want to thank our people that actually made this work, our staffs on both sides who do such a tremendous job.

With that, today's hearing is now adjourned. Thank you.

[Whereupon, at 4:29 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

---

---

# **A P P E N D I X**

OCTOBER 29, 2025

---

---

**Mindy Brashears, PhD**

**2025 Senate Nomination Statement**

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and Members of the Committee, I thank you for inviting me here today to testify before you. I am honored to be nominated by President Trump and for the support of Secretary Brooke Rollins to be considered for the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety. I want to thank Congressman and good friend, Jodey Arrington, for the kind introduction.

If confirmed, I would be honored to serve the citizens of the United States a second time in this position to ensure that the United States maintains the safest food supply in the world. I have dedicated my career to studying food safety and focusing on the safety of the meat and poultry supply.

Today I am blessed to have many people here to support me. My husband, Todd, my daughters, Bailey, Reagan and Presley and my daughter-in-law, Victoria, my mom, Becky and many other family members, colleagues and friends.

I have spent my professional career preparing for this role. I grew up on a farm in West Texas where we raised cattle and cotton. My parents instilled in me a love of agriculture and a strong work ethic. I was active in FFA and 4H in high school and went to college on a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo scholarship. I hold a BS in Food Technology from Texas Tech University and MS and PhD degrees from Oklahoma State University in Food Science, specializing in food microbiology. I have spent 25 years as a research scientist studying foodborne pathogens in meat and poultry environments while simultaneously mentoring the next generation of food safety leaders as a university professor.

When I held the position of Under Secretary for Food Safety in the first Trump administration, I had the opportunity not only to put my technical knowledge into practice, but also had the chance to implement science-based food safety policies to advance the mission of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. If confirmed to this position, it will be a top priority for me to make decisions based on sound science and to develop and implement policies that are scientifically strong and practical, and most importantly, that will result in a meaningful impact on public health outcomes.

Some of my greatest accomplishments during my first time in this office were modernizing swine and egg inspection systems at FSIS and establishing a culture of data-driven, science-based decision making at the agency. I also oversaw programs such as laboratory accreditation and spearheaded programs that improved the efficiency of testing and sampling methods for the agency. I was committed to strengthening our workforce through recruitment programs at Universities and Vet Schools. Additionally, I developed strong

connections with other agencies within USDA and across the government including collaborations with FDA and CDC.

Since leaving the position the first time, I have spent the past four years re-directing my research program at Texas Tech to generate data that is practical to inform public policy. I have been on the front lines of food safety, which has provided me with the firsthand knowledge to effectively lead the food safety work at USDA. I have spent many days collecting samples in beef, pork and poultry plants mapping pathogens such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli* and *Listeria* throughout the various stages of processing, from the lairage areas when the livestock first enters the establishment to when the final product enters commerce. In our research lab, we've developed new methods and interventions to better understand and target key pathogens of concern. My team and I have been laser focused on how to make the meat and poultry supply safer for consumers.

In addition to my professional experiences, my practical life roles as a mother, a wife and a daughter have given me a strong perspective as a consumer. Additionally, my faith in God is the foundation for decision-making in my life. I want to thank Him for my family, my education and experiences and this opportunity that has been placed before me. Ultimate wisdom comes from above and I will rely on this personally and professionally.

Members of the Committee, I appreciate the time you have taken to be here today. I am humbled by the nomination and would be honored to serve as Under Secretary. My experience and technical expertise have prepared me for this role and if confirmed, I will make data-driven decisions to ensure food safety of the U.S. meat, poultry and processed egg supply.

Thank you for your time today and for considering me for this important role. I look forward to answering your questions.

**Yvette Herrell****Nominee for U.S. Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary, Office of Congressional Relations**

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and Members of the Committee—thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I’m also grateful to the committee staff and everyone who worked diligently on the paperwork, interviews, and meetings in preparation for this hearing.

I am honored by President Trump’s nomination to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Congressional Relations at USDA. If confirmed, I look forward to working closely with this Committee to communicate policy ideas, solutions, and resolutions not only to Members and staff on Capitol Hill, but also to USDA leadership, stakeholders, and the constituencies we all serve.

Preparing for this process has allowed me to reflect on my own path. I grew up in rural New Mexico, active in 4-H and FFA, raising livestock and working on our small family ranch. Those experiences grounded me in the realities of agriculture, and I developed a profound understanding of how and where our food sources come from. I have a deep appreciation for our farming and ranching entities as well as the natural resource industries that shoulder the risks while at the same time provide the stewardship necessary to keep our lands productive for future generations.

I have long believed that agriculture should be a place where policy rises above partisanship. Good ideas deserve a fair hearing regardless of which party proposes them. If confirmed, my goal is to bridge gaps, earn trust on both sides of the aisle, and ensure information flows quickly, accurately, and consistently.

Throughout my career—whether serving New Mexicans in the State Legislature, operating small businesses, or representing New Mexico’s Second District in Congress—relationships have been the constant. I’ve worked at USAA as a policy service specialist; owned and operated Holiday Kennels and Alamo Earthwork & Paving, as a licensed associate real estate broker; served eight years in the New Mexico House; and later in the U.S. House. In each role, listening first then following through built the partnerships that make problem-solving possible. At almost every point in my career the relationships I cultivated proved paramount to my success and the successes of those around me.

Public service also means being there when people are hurting. I have volunteered across the country with Habitat for Humanity and Hands of Grace, including after Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and during tornado season in Nebraska—helping families clean up, rebuild, and find their footing. Those experiences taught me to work shoulder-to-shoulder with people from every background and to keep compassion at the center of every decision.

Constituent service is where promises become performance. In Congress, my office handled more than 2,800 constituent requests with a 98% resolution rate—because timely, accurate



communication isn't a courtesy; it's our duty. If confirmed, my first priorities at USDA will be to strengthen the Office of Congressional Relations' responsiveness, modernize our communication and IT workflows where needed, and give every Member and staffer a clear, fast lane to the information and assistance they need. Beyond responsiveness, I am committed to enhancing transparency and accountability by establishing predictable response timelines, clear points of contact, and consistent performance metrics to ensure that no request is overlooked.

I also want to acknowledge Senator Ben Ray Luján—my fellow New Mexican and a colleague I appreciated working with in the House and across our state. Senator, thank you for your partnership on issues that matter to New Mexico's farmers, ranchers, Pueblos, Tribes, and rural communities. I look forward to continuing that collaboration from this new role, should I be confirmed.

I've heard a common concern in my meetings with Members and staff: timely, reliable information must be the norm, not the exception. If confirmed, I will implement clear service standards for congressional inquiries; expand proactive briefings on emerging issues—from disaster declarations to market disruptions; and coordinate rapid-response updates during severe weather, drought, or fire events.

Several of you have also raised the broader challenge of public understanding. Agriculture is foundational to our economy, national security, and way of life—but too often misunderstood. I was grateful for a thoughtful conversation with Senator Justice about the need for better outreach and clear, accessible messaging. I commit to working with Senator Justice and Members of this Committee to elevate practical, bipartisan narratives that reflect the daily realities of producers and rural communities.

Finally, I want to reiterate my commitment to ethical conduct, transparency, and fidelity to congressional intent. The Office of Congressional Relations should be the most trusted front door into USDA for every Member and staffer—Democrat, Republican, and Independent alike. My pledge is simple: listen carefully, respond quickly, and work relentlessly until the job is done.

Thank you, Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Members and staff, for your time and consideration. If confirmed, I will be honored to partner with you to serve America's farmers, ranchers, foresters, and rural families with the urgency and respect they deserve.

**John Walk****2025 Senate Nomination Statement**

Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, and distinguished Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

My name is John Walk. Thank you for the opportunity to address my nomination for Inspector General of the United States Department of Agriculture. I am joined by my wife, Ruth, and our four daughters, Grace, Hannah, Joanna, and Phoebe. I am grateful they are at my side. With humility, I express my deepest thanks to President Trump for his nomination to this very important role.

Transparency that enables accountability is fundamental to our democratic system of government and necessary to the preservation of liberty. Like at other federal departments, the American People must have the means to acquire knowledge about the work of USDA as part of their exercise of self-government.

Inspector Generals perform a crucial function to promote transparency by informing the public of waste, fraud, and abuse in the administration of federal programs that is essential for the American People to hold government accountable for its decisions and conduct. At USDA, the Department is entrusted with stewarding more than \$200 billion of taxpayer funds annually and manages more than 300 programs in support of farmers, ranchers, and the American public. USDA authorities include farm programs, rural development, agriculture research, food safety, nutrition, trade promotion, animal and plant health, forest management, animal welfare, disaster response, federal benefits programs including SNAP and WIC, and other important areas. It is critical for USDA's OIG to shine a bright light on the many activities of the Department and its management of resources so that USDA carries out its mission effectively, efficiently, and with due accountability to the American people.

If confirmed, I will assume the responsibilities of Inspector General with the benefit of nearly 25 years of federal experience from entry level roles to senior leadership positions. My federal service began as a records clerk at the Department of Justice while I was still in high school. After graduating from college I served as a staffer in the House of Representatives for more than five years. Following law school in 2008, I entered the career civil service through the Department of Homeland Security's Honors Attorney Program. During my eight years at DHS I provided legal counsel to ensure the Department exercised its authorities in compliance with all legal requirements to secure our homeland while maintaining the constitutional rights of Americans. At DHS, I was also involved in litigating numerous federal lawsuits alleging claims for legal violations and investigated many allegations against the agency and its employees.

Immediately after DHS, I was honored to serve President Donald J. Trump for nearly four years during his first term as Associate Counsel at the White House Counsel's Office. After my service at the White House, I began my tenure as USDA's Judicial

Officer – a job I still hold in addition to Senior Advisor to the Secretary. As Judicial Officer I am the Department’s appellate level administrative judge deciding formal agency adjudication enforcing various USDA legal authorities. As such, for nearly five years I have served as USDA’s deciding official in administrative litigation under the delegation of three Senate confirmed Secretaries of Agriculture of both political parties. In this role, I exercise objective and independent judgment to draw factual and legal conclusions based on the evidence. It is a role that requires impartiality, fairness, and fidelity to the law and facts as they are found without regard to politics.

If confirmed, I will approach the role of Inspector General with the same objectivity and independent mindedness to expose waste, fraud, and abuse as it is found. I will draw on my almost quarter century of service in the federal government to carry out the oversight functions of this important role.

In the Bible, Jesus said, “nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light.” That is exactly as it should be in government. Given the opportunity to serve as IG, I will work tirelessly to bring the work of the USDA into the light – keeping USDA leadership, Congress, and ultimately the American People, fully informed of deficiencies and problems in the Department’s administration of its programs to strengthen transparency and public accountability.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.

August 11, 2025

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Senate Majority Whip  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Senate Minority Whip  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Thune, Schumer, Barrasso, and Durbin:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing America's meat and poultry producers and processors, we encourage you to swiftly bring to the Senate floor for confirmation the nomination of Dr. Mindy Brashears as Under Secretary of Food Safety.

Dr. Brashears is eminently qualified to fulfill the critical role of overseeing the safety of the nation's meat and poultry products. Dr. Brashears was unanimously confirmed in 2020 to the same role for which she is again nominated – a position she held until the end of the first Trump Administration.

Prior to her nomination, Dr. Brashears served as the director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence and as a professor of food microbiology and food safety at Texas Tech University. Dr. Brashears also served as a professor of food safety and public health at Texas Tech University for nearly twenty years before joining USDA as Deputy Under Secretary of Food Safety in 2019.

The Under Secretary for Food Safety is a critical role within the department that should be filled rapidly to assist the Secretary of Agriculture in ensuring the safety and wholesomeness of the nation's supply of meat, poultry, and egg products. Dr. Brashears' previous work as Under Secretary of Food Safety and her background and experience in the area of food safety have demonstrated her leadership on these issues.

For the reasons mentioned, the undersigned respectfully request that Dr. Brashears' nomination be expeditiously brought forward for confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

National Chicken Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Turkey Federation  
Meat Institute



July 28, 2025

&lt;Sent via e-mail&gt;

Dominic Restuccia  
White House Liaison  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250

CC:  
The Honorable John Thune, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable John Boozman, U.S. Senate

**RE: Support for USDA Inspector General Nominee John Walk**

Dear Mr. Restuccia,

On behalf of the United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF), we are pleased to express our strong support for the nomination of John Walk to serve as Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

UCOWF is the nation's only professional association dedicated solely to the prevention, detection, and prosecution of fraud within public assistance programs. One of our members recently had the privilege of participating in a joint Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) fraud operation led by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Secret Service and USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. During this operation, our member observed firsthand Mr. Walk's direct engagement with senior leadership and staff from DHS, the U.S. Secret Service, and ICE. His emphasis on interagency collaboration and his steadfast focus on **combating fraud, waste, and abuse** was evident and deeply impressive.

Mr. Walk's ability to unify federal, state, and local stakeholders to address vulnerabilities in USDA programs — particularly the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — exemplifies the leadership qualities urgently needed in this role. With SNAP retailer fraud on the rise and the number of USDA Office of Inspector General special agents at its lowest level since the 1970s, strong, decisive leadership is critical. We are confident that, as Inspector General, Mr. Walk will strengthen program integrity and ensure that taxpayer resources are effectively safeguarded.

We respectfully urge your support for Mr. Walk's nomination and stand ready to collaborate with USDA to advance the shared mission of protecting public benefits from misuse.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,



**Ashley Wilkes, President**  
**United Council on Welfare Fraud**  
[www.ucowf.net](http://www.ucowf.net)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

May 2, 2025

THE HONORABLE AMY KLOBUCHAR  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture,  
 Nutrition and Forestry*  
 328A Russell Senate Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Klobuchar,

Thank you for your letter addressed to Secretary Rollins dated March 25, 2025, which expressed concerns with recent funding changes regarding the Commodity Credit Corporation. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

The Biden Administration inflated statutory programs with Commodity Credit Corporation dollars without any plans for long-term solutions, and in 2024, used the pandemic as a reason to make funding announcements. While the pandemic is over, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has not and will not lose focus on its core mission of strengthening food security, supporting agricultural markets, and ensuring access to nutritious foods. For example, earlier this month, USDA released over \$500 million in previously obligated funds for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA), LFPA for Tribes, and Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS) to fulfill existing commitments and support ongoing local food purchases.

Additionally, USDA recently announced \$261 million in available fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts, made possible through Section 32 purchases. These foods go directly to food banks and other charitable organizations. States are eligible to receive products including tomatoes, grapes, pistachios, asparagus, apricots, strawberries, and peaches, among many others. And while the Biden-era slush fund for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) was terminated, TEFAP continues to operate uninterrupted, as originally intended by Congress, with more than \$166 million spent in recent months to connect families with food. The Department will continue to use its procurement authority to support producers and consumers where appropriate, and with 16 nutrition programs under its purview, ensure families continue to have access to affordable and abundant food.

As Secretary Rollins expressed in her February 13, 2025, letter to State, Tribal, territory, and local government partners, together, we will find the bold and sustainable solutions that deliver effective programs to our most vulnerable families.

Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services  
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9600  
 USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Thank you for your interest in these matters. If you or your staff have any questions, please have your staff contact the FNS Governmental Affairs Team at [fnsgovaffairs@usda.gov](mailto:fnsgovaffairs@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Walk", with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOHN WALK  
*Acting Deputy Under Secretary  
Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services  
United States Department of Agriculture*

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, IOWA, CHAIRMAN

LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA	RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
JOHN CORNYN, TEXAS	SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND
MICHAEL S. LEE, UTAH	AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA
TED CRUZ, TEXAS	CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
JOSH HAWLEY, MISSOURI	RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA	MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA	CORY A. BOOKER, NEW JERSEY
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE	ALEX PADILLA, CALIFORNIA
ERIC SCHMITT, MISSOURI	PETER WELCH, VERMONT
KATIE BOYD BRITT, ALABAMA	ADAM B. SCHIFF, CALIFORNIA
MIKE CRAPO, IDAHO	

**United States Senate**  
 COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

January 28, 2025

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
 President of the United States

Dear President Trump:

We write to you today concerning the reported firing of Inspectors General (IGs) from 18 offices.<sup>1</sup> Congress was not provided the legally required 30-day notice and case-specific reasons for removal, as required by law.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, we request that you provide that information immediately.

On December 23, 2022, the “James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023” was signed into law and included provisions from the *Securing Inspector General Independence Act*, which was introduced by a bipartisan group of members.<sup>3</sup> Those provisions require that the President “shall” communicate to Congress in writing 30 days before removing or transferring an IG from office the “substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons” for the removal or transfer.<sup>4</sup> The law also prohibits an IG from being placed on non-duty status during the 30-day period preceding the date of removal or transfer unless the continued presence of the Inspector General in the workplace poses a threat as described by requirements in the Administrative Leave Act and the President submits a report to Congress.<sup>5</sup>

While IGs aren’t immune from committing acts requiring their removal, and they can be removed by the president, the law must be followed.<sup>6</sup> The communication to Congress must contain more than just broad and vague statements, rather it must include sufficient facts and details to assure Congress and the public that the termination is due to real concerns about the Inspector General’s ability to carry out their mission.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Yamiche Alcindor, Vaughn Hillyard and Laura Strickler, *Trump fires 18 inspectors general overnight in legally murky move*, NBC News (Jan. 25, 2025) <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/trump-fires-multiple-inspectors-general-legally-murky-overnight-move-rcna189261>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*; see Pub. L. 117-263.

<sup>3</sup> See S. 587, *Securing Inspector General Independence Act of 2021*, 117<sup>th</sup> Congress (introduced Mar. 4, 2021) <https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/congress/senate-bill/587/text>.

<sup>4</sup> Pub. L. 117-263.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*; see 5 U.S.C. § 6329(b)(2)(A)(i)-(iv) (2) Requirements.—An agency may place an employee in leave under paragraph (1) only if the agency has—(A) made a determination with respect to the employee that the continued presence of the employee in the workplace during an investigation of the employee or while the employee is in a notice period, as applicable, may— (i) pose a threat to the employee or others; (ii) result in the destruction of evidence relevant to an investigation; (iii) result in loss of or damage to Government property; or (iv) otherwise jeopardize legitimate Government interests.

<sup>6</sup> Pub. L. 117-263.

<sup>7</sup> Pub. L. 117-263.



President Trump  
January 28, 2025  
Page 2 of 2

This is a matter of public and congressional accountability and ensuring the public's confidence in the Inspector General community, a sentiment shared more broadly by other Members of Congress. IGs are critical to rooting out waste, fraud, abuse, and misconduct within the Executive Branch bureaucracy, which you have publicly made clear you are also intent on doing.

Accordingly, we request that you provide Congress with a written communication that contains the "substantive rationale, including detailed and case-specific reasons" for each of the IG's removed. Further, we request the name of each official that will serve in an acting capacity and that you work quickly to nominate qualified and non-partisan individuals to serve in these open positions.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary



Richard J. Durbin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

June 10, 2025

THE HONORABLE JOHN FETTERMAN  
*United States Senate*  
*142 Russell Senate Office Building*  
*Washington, D.C. 20510*

Dear Senator Fetterman,

Thank you for your May 1, 2025, letter to Secretary Rollins, regarding the termination of certain funding for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

USDA's actions regarding LFPA and TEFAP are currently subject to or related to ongoing litigation. As a result, we are unable to answer your questions or provide the documents you requested at this time.

With 16 robust nutrition programs and the Section 32 market support program in place, USDA remains focused on its core mission: strengthening food security, supporting agricultural markets, and ensuring access to nutritious food. USDA continues to purchase food for TEFAP, with more than \$669 million spent in Fiscal Year 2025, as of May 14, 2025, to connect families to food. Additionally, since March 27, 2025, USDA has announced \$328 million in available fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, Atlantic groundfish, canned pears, dried sweet cherries, great northern beans, and Pacific pink shrimp made possible through Section 32 purchases. This food goes directly to food banks and other charitable organizations.

In total, so far this year, Pennsylvania TEFAP has received over \$35 million in support. Regarding the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) and Local Food for Schools (LFS) Cooperative Agreement programs, as of June 3, 2025, \$2.9 million and \$6.8 million remain available, respectively, to assist Pennsylvania farmers in the coming growing season.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have additional questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at 202-720-7095 or [OCR@usda.gov](mailto:OCR@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

John Walk  
 Acting Deputy Under Secretary  
 Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture

JOHN FETTERMAN  
PENNSYLVANIA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

<https://www.fetterman.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

Thank you for the work you've done for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and producers since February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. As we discussed when we met last December, I knew we would disagree in some areas, but I am encouraged by the way you've used your platform and voice to put producers first and support their livelihoods. That's why I am asking you to reinstate funding for two program that have been directly benefiting farmers: the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Your department recently cancelled both the third round of LFPA funding and TEFAP purchases.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (PA) has received nearly \$30 million through two rounds of LFPA funding (see Appendix A). Their allocation represents just 4% of the total LFPA amount, but the PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) has successfully leveraged this money to help farmers feed hungry Pennsylvanians. Of their allocation, PDA has purchased \$6.39 million in dairy products, \$5.09 million in eggs, \$4.46 million in meat and poultry products, and \$7.56 million in fresh produce, from a total of 189 independent farmers (see Appendix B). The funding has allowed the agricultural industry in PA to flourish (see Appendix C).

PDA also purchases TEFAP commodities—including fresh milk and canned/frozen vegetables—that are sourced from hundreds of local farms in PA. For example, PDA has told my staff that \$213,306.21 worth of dairy products from as many as 150-200 PA dairy farms was on order to be purchased, but recently cancelled. This cancellation of a contract throws my constituents into economic uncertainty, as input costs continue to rise and their supply chains become more volatile due to trade concerns.

While I appreciate that Section 32 purchases are making up for some of the value of the cancelled contracts, you must agree that Section 32 and TEFAP are separate programs serving distinct functions. Section 32 purchases serve a market stabilizing function, while TEFAP primarily serves hungry families. Though *both* programs support farmer livelihoods. The Section 32 purchases are also not a one-for-one replacement for the TEFAP purchases, and do not make farmers whole after their TEFAP contracts were cancelled.

Farmers—like all business owners—need certainty that the government will honor their contracts when they enter into business agreement with the USDA.

I appreciate our conversation on Tuesday, March 25, to discuss this issue. My staff was told by your team that the third round of LFPA (LFPA 25) was rescinded because PA does not need it. My staff was further told that PDA still had \$23 million left of unspent LFPA funds from the first two rounds, and later that number was updated to \$12 million by your staff. This is false, according to PDA's records, demonstrated by Appendix D, a claim receipt the PA Comptroller submitted for reimbursement. As you'll see, on March 27, PDA submitted a request for \$9,100,281.88. As the claim shows, they had already received \$17,859,688. Subtracting these two amounts from PA's total disbursement shows only \$2,964,640.12 left over. PDA affirms to my staff that they will spend this amount through July, and easily continue their implementation of this beneficial program with the third round of funding they deserve.

Further, I appreciate your response (see Appendix E) to Ranking Member Klobuchar's and my questions, along with our colleagues, about USDA actions under Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda, dated April 3, 2025. In that response, however, you stated, "The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and all other nutrition programs have remained uninterrupted." This is inaccurate, as shown by USDA's demonstrated cancellation of TEFAP contracts. This decision interrupted PDA's operations and farmer incomes in my commonwealth. I ask that you honor the intent of your April 3<sup>rd</sup> letter by allowing PDA to fulfill these farmer contracts under TEFAP.

With this information in mind, no later than Friday, May 9, 2025, I ask that you 1) answer the following questions and 2) commit in writing to both disburse LFPA25 funds to PA and reinstate all of PDA's TEFAP contracts, as quickly as possible.

- 1) On what date did you—or an authorized staff—internally approve rescinding LFPA25 funds?
- 2) On what date did you—or an authorized staff—internally approve cancelling TEFAP contracts?
- 3) What is your justification—especially in light of evidence contradicting USDA's stated justification to my staff—for rescinding LFPA25 funds? Please provide all relevant internal communications, documents, and authority justifying this decision.
- 4) What is your justification for cancelling TEFAP contracts? Please provide all relevant internal communications, documents, and authority justifying this decision.
- 5) What plans exist to use the rescinded LFPA and cancelled TEFAP funds?
  - a. If such plans exist, has the money already been spent on those other plans?
  - b. Specifically, how much of the money has been spent on what other plans and programs?
  - c. Through what statutory authority did you move this money to other programs?

Thank you in advance for your helpful responses to my questions, and your continued commitment for our staffs to work together on this. I look forward to our

continued work to promote U.S. agricultural success, which LFPA and TEFAP contribute towards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Fetterman', with a large loop at the start and several horizontal strokes at the end.

---

John Fetterman  
U.S. Senator

[illegible]

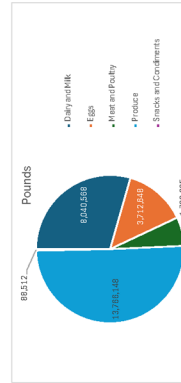
# Appendix B

	Daily and Milk		Eggs		Meat and Poultry		Produce		Snacks/Condiments		Grand Totals		
	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	
Butter	\$81,130.96	117.352	\$65,150.59	727.239	\$224,206.39	67.233	\$30,429.55	17,633	\$872.50	900	\$234.15	\$1,480,341.58	1,356.353
Cheddar Cheese	\$199,193.43	438.54	\$892,189.56	352.91	\$27,889.42	26.28	\$309,349.24	21,681	\$24,371.24	31,440	\$1,456.36	\$1,470,360.88	1,049.660
Flour	\$1,545,048.48	43.054	\$262,646.14	31.163	\$73,862.35	26.928	\$2,919,572.51	67,986	\$24,371.24	31,440	\$1,456.36	\$771,044.08	1,049.660
Ham	\$1,646,629.29	226.678	\$1,155,316.21	135.316	\$1,158,644.32	62.067	\$1,398,164.33	25,807	\$29,661.37	32,083	\$469,511.72	\$7,471.07	4,641.357
Ice Cream	\$899,100.37	1,613.659	\$1,740,218.43	1,091.629	\$244,155.33	128.56	\$1,159,076.04	1,943.00	\$4,506.97	64,422	\$25,078.14	\$4,481.357	4,641.357

Commodity	Dairy and Milk		Eggs		Poultry and Poultry		Produce		Snacks/Confections		Grand totals	
	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars
Butter	313,035.43	\$10,085	168,685.18	\$122,354.79	32,580	\$20,351.71	903.181	\$73.96	22	\$1.28	1,128,684.77	\$1,128,684.77
Condensed milk	837.40	\$25,929.80	296,024	\$524,131.31	37,593,683.57	\$1,786,391					2,976,024	\$1,976,024
Evaporated milk	1,027.784	\$477,111.73	435,381	\$434,178.45	1,915,506.63	\$2,418.32	935,915.52	9.34			3,369,506.90	\$4,080,187
Whole milk	1,238.914	\$593,692.60	527,545	\$748,925.79	94,457.53	\$2,118.65					2,679,914.93	\$4,173,895
Chickens	402.858	\$15,295.55	1,327.353	\$442,048.59	14,338	\$448,727.17	713.307	\$74,701.20	10.944	\$1,444,930.46	1,444,930.46	\$3,384,785
Ducks	402.858	\$1,648,884.86	1,627.953	\$2,283,874.67	946,942	\$4,023,838.67	7,948,274	\$78,215.20	20,310	\$1,065,392.08	14,582,265	\$14,582,265

Daily and Milk		Eggs		Poultry and Poultry		Products		Stocks and Commoditys		Grain Totals	
Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds	Dollars	Pounds
\$77,238.91	777,880	\$277,723.41	207,574	\$556,243.51	245,870	\$848,153.61	1,368,883			\$2,383,349.28	2,594,387
\$89,814.77	948,945	\$7,1419.72	504,481	\$482,834.81	402,339	\$1,051,258.98	1,683,870			\$3,304,208.58	3,595,445
\$95,703.95	685,716	\$702,939.91	281,001	\$772,226.09	96,400	\$402,069.36	846,821	\$19,467.00	3,779	\$2,550,450.31	1,913,225
\$2,352,750.33	2,413,221	\$1,698,890.64	993,068.06	\$1,771,306.23	744,611	\$2,381,491.95	3,879,574	\$19,467.00	3,779	\$6,223,986.15	8,004,457

	<i>Value</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Dairy and Milk	\$6,393,017.32	8,040,568
Eggs	\$5,090,963.93	3,712,648
Meat and Poultry	\$4,461,376.23	1,720,065
Produce	\$7,564,514.66	13,766,148
Snacks and Condiments	\$152,125.17	88,512
	<b>\$23,661,997.31</b>	<b>27,327,940</b>



## Appendix C



LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (USDA)

# SUPPORTING PENNSYLVANIA FARMERS, FOOD BANKS & FAMILIES

The Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA) provides funding for states to purchase local foods to help support farmers and feed families. While increasing local food consumption, these funds help build and expand economic opportunities for farmers who operate small businesses, are just beginning, may not have access to limited resources.

**27.2 MILLION  
POUNDS OF FOOD**



purchased from PA farmers  
and producers via LFPA

## EXPANDING MARKETS FOR PRODUCERS

The LFPA Program is designed to help farms and vendors of all sizes manage risk and create markets for new product, providing an economic safety net while vendors build their customer base. Additionally, vendors can work with food banks to plan for needed products for the upcoming season. As supply is available for the food bank, it can then be purchased using LFPA funds to be distributed locally.

**\$23.6 MILLION  
DOLLARS INVESTED**



from LFPA in PA's food  
and agricultural economy

## INVESTING IN AGRICULTURE

Supporting local agriculture and small producers as well as food banks, Feeding Pennsylvania manages the program in collaboration with partners at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. From August 2022 to February 2025, purchases made by food banks from producers via the LFPA program totaled more than \$23.6 million.

**22.6 MILLION  
MEALS PROVIDED**

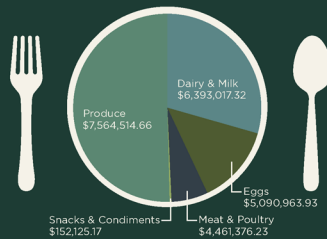


to more than 5.5 million  
households throughout PA

## IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

LFPA is designed to strengthen independent agribusinesses; over 89% of participating vendors are small businesses. LFPA vendors are passionate about supporting their communities, and many vendors choose to deliver directly to their local food pantries. Collectively, these pantries coordinate with over 2,000 distribution sites to provide food purchased through LFPA to Pennsylvanians facing hunger.

## VALUE OF LFPA COMMODITIES



## AIDING UNDER-RESOURCED AREAS

**78%**

of locations in Pennsylvania that  
distribute food purchased by food  
banks through LFPA are located  
in under-resourced rural and  
densely populated urban areas.



All figures reference data collected between August 2022 and February 2025.

## LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (USDA)

# PROVEN TO STRENGTHEN PA AGRIBUSINESSES

“



### Think We Not Me Farming Program

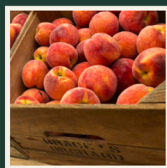
📍 State College, Centre County

As an organization, Think We Not Me donated over 46,000 pounds of fresh produce in 2024 to over twenty local food banks and organizations that provide food for the food insecure. Probably one third of our budget includes reimbursement from the LFPA program through the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. If we did not have this reimbursement to cover part of our expenses, we probably would only be able to donate half the amount of produce that we provide.

-Bill Zimmer, President

”

“



### Brace's Orchard

📍 Dallas, Luzerne County

Our relationship with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg NEPA Regional Food Bank has been a tremendous help for our business. Since LFPA funds have been available, we have worked together the past three seasons and look forward to continuing the relationship in 2025. The food bank places regular orders and purchases some extra skids when we have surplus. These orders help cover the costs for harvesting and storing produce throughout the winter and spring.

-Logan Brace, Owner and Ninth-Generation Farmer

”

“



### Backpack Yogurt (Country Foods)

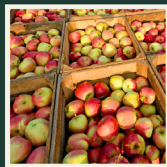
📍 Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County

Working with the food banks through LFPA funding has provided a crucial opportunity for us to expand our reach and improve our production, allowing us to deliver high-quality dairy products to those in need. By partnering with food banks, Backpack Yogurt has been able to indirectly support over sixty small dairy farms in PA. The increased demand for our products has created a ripple effect, providing these farms with more consistent sales and enhancing their economic stability.

-Mike Baysal, Owner

”

“



### John Schultz & Sons

📍 North East, Erie County

We are a sixth-generation family fruit farm. Our apples are grown, packed and delivered to folks within a 100-mile radius of our farm. We have supported our local food banks for decades and continue to see their needs grow as declining SNAP benefits and rising prices leave people in need of a helping hand. LFPA funding provides more locally sourced food to food banks while spending less on freight, warehousing and spoilage.

-Roger Schultz, Partner

”

## Appendix D

**Claim (CLM-144496)****Claim Information:**

**1a. Request for Advance or Reimbursement**  
REIMBURSEMENT

**1b. Type of Payment Requested:**  
PARTIAL

**2. Basis of Request**  
ACCRUAL

**3. Federal Sponsoring Agency and Organizational Element to Which This Report is Submitted**  
Agricultural Marketing Service

**4. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency**  
AM22LFPA0000C029

**5. Partial Payment Request Number for this Request**  
#4

**6. Employer Identification Number:**  
— —

**7. Recipient's Account or Identifying Number:**  
M42223

**8. Period Covered By This Request**  
**From**                      **To**  
7/1/24                      3/27/25

**9. Recipient Organization**  
**Name:** AGRICULTURE, PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMEN T OF  
**Number and Street:** 2301 NORTH CAMERON STREET  
**City:** HARRISBURG  
**State:** PA  
**Zip:** 17110-9408

**10. Payee (Where check is to be sent if different than item 9)**  
**Name:**  
**Number and Street:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Zip:**

**Claim Amount:****11. Computation of Amount of Reimbursements/Advances Requested**

Programs/ Functions/ Activities	As of Date	(a)	(b) Agency Calculations (For your reference only)	(c) Programs/ Functions/ Activities	Total
a. Total program outlays to date	3/27/25	\$15,182,027.06			\$15,182,027.06
b. Less: cumulative program income		\$0.00			\$0.00
c. Net program outlays (line a minus line b)		\$15,182,027.06			\$15,182,027.06
d. Estimated net cash outlays for advance period		\$0.00			
e. Total (sum of lines c & d)		\$15,182,027.06			\$15,182,027.06
f. Non-Federal share of amount on line e		\$0.00			\$0.00
g. Federal share of amount on line e		\$15,182,027.06			\$15,182,027.06
h. Federal payments previously requested		\$6,080,000.00	\$0.00		\$6,080,000.00
i. Federal share now requested (line g minus line h)		\$9,102,027.06			\$9,102,027.06
j. Advances required by month, when					

requested by Federal grantor agency for use in making prescheduled advances	1st month				
	2nd month				
	3rd month				

**12. Alternate Computation for Advances Only**

	Amount
a. Estimated Federal cash outlays that will be made during period covered by the advance	\$
b. Less: Estimated balance of Federal cash on hand as of beginning of advance period	\$
c. Amount requested (line a minus line b)	\$

**13. Certification**

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the data on the reverse are correct and that all outlays were made in accordance with the grant conditions or other agreement and that payment is due and has not been previously requested.	SIGNATURE OR AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL Alfredo Rivera	DATE REQUEST SUBMITTED 03/27/25
	TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OR TITLE Alfredo Rivera, Accountant 3	TELEPHONE (AREA CODE, NUMBER, EXTENSION) (717) 425-6777

**14. Requested Amounts by Cost Element**

Cost Element	Disbursed Amount	Open Balance	Direct Requested Amount	Indirect Requested Amount	Total Requested Amount
<b>Personnel</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
<b>Fringe Benefit</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
<b>Equipment</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
<b>Supplies</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
<b>Contractual</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
<b>Other</b>	\$17,859,688.00	\$12,064,922.00	\$9,100,281.88	\$1,745.18	\$9,102,027.06
<b>Travel</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	---	---	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	\$17,859,688.00	\$12,064,922.00	\$9,100,281.88	\$1,745.18	\$9,102,027.06

**Signature**

Select a Partner by typing in the name of the individual in the box. Matching names will appear in a drop down box for your selection.

A Primary Certifying Official is a required Partner and notifications and work items will be sent to all listed Certifying Official.

Primary Certifying Official	Secondary Certifying Official
Alfredo Rivera	

---

**Attachments**

Title	Operator	Date/Time
ARPA Worksheet	PATRICK RUSSO	3/27/2025 2:09 PM

---

**Comments**

Comment	Commented By	Date/Time
Add attachment	Alfredo Rivera	3/27/25 2:02 PM

---



## Appendix E



*Secretary Brooke L. Rollins*

Washington, D.C. 20250

April 3, 2025

THE HONORABLE AMY KLOBUCHAR  
*Ranking Member*  
*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*  
*United States Senate*  
 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar,

Thank you to you and your colleagues for your letter sent on February 5, 2025, to Acting Secretary Gary Washington regarding recent Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda. As you know, the Acting Secretary responded February 7. Additionally, thank you for your subsequent letter on February 10. Today, I wanted to provide further insight as I approach my 50<sup>th</sup> day in office.

First, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) appreciates your commitment to farmers and ranchers. But as part of my responsibility during a transition, I undertook a substantive review of contracts, personnel, and spending.

I realize this review process has caused concern among producers and consumers who participate in longstanding USDA programs. However, as this review continues, program funding has been released. To date, funds have been released for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), the Dairy Business Innovation (DBI) Initiatives grant program, the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement Program, Assisting Specialty Crop Exports (ASCE) initiative, the Land-Grant University Capacity grants, Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development, the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), Empowering Rural America (New ERA) and Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) programs.

It is also so important to note that programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and all other nutrition programs have remained uninterrupted. While the Biden Administration inflated statutory programs with Commodity Credit Corporation dollars without any plans for long-term solutions, and even in 2024, used the pandemic as a reason to make funding announcements, USDA will not lose focus on its mission of strengthening food security, supporting agricultural markets, and ensuring access to nutritious foods. For example, earlier this month, USDA released over half a billion in

previously obligated funds for local procurement programs to fulfill existing commitments and support ongoing local food purchases. Additionally, USDA recently announced \$261 million in available fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts, made possible through Section 32 purchases. These foods go directly to food banks and other charitable organizations. The Department will continue to use its procurement authority to support producers and consumers where appropriate, and with 16 nutrition programs under its purview, ensure families continue to have access to affordable and abundant food.

Each underscore the Trump Administration's commitment to rural communities, including the farmers, ranchers, and small businesses and their essential role in building a stronger, more resilient, and more secure America. As this review continues, I hope our staff can convene in regularly scheduled updates. Not only does that allow me to share information, but it allows us to collaborate.

My goals are many, including to make certain American agriculture remains the most competitive in the world. I also want to ensure we return the Department to one that puts farmers first and revitalizes rural America. And no matter the goal, each have one thing in common: to protect the food and national security of our great nation.

Please note a version of this letter will be shared with your colleagues. If you have further questions or concerns, please call me directly or have a member of your staff contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or [ocr@usda.gov](mailto:ocr@usda.gov).

Sincerely,



Brooke L. Rollins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, & FORESTRY**  
**Questions for Executive Nominees**  
**119<sup>th</sup> Congress: Part I**

**1. Basic Biographical Information**

Please provide the following information.

<i>Position to Which You Have Been Nominated</i>	
<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date of Nomination</u>
Under Secretary for Food Safety	6/02/2025

<i>Current Legal Name</i>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
Mindy	Malynn	Brashears	

<i>Addresses</i>					
<u>Residential Address</u> (do not include street address)			<u>Office Address</u> (include street address)		
			Street: 1308 Indiana Ave		
City: Wolfforth	State: TX	Zip: 79382	City: Lubbock	State: TX	Zip: 79315

<i>Other Names Used</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<small>Check if  Maiden Name</small>	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
Mindy	Malynn	Hardcastle		X	1970 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est August, 1989 <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Birth Year and Place</i>	
<b>Year of Birth</b> (Do not include month and day.)	<b>Place of Birth</b>
1970	Amarillo, Texas

<i>Marital Status</i>					
<b>Check All That Describe Your Current Situation:</b>					
<b>Never Married</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Separated</b>	<b>Annulled</b>	<b>Divorced</b>	<b>Widowed</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Spouse's Name</i> (current spouse only)			
<u>Spouse's First Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Middle Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Last Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Suffix</u>
Michel	Todd	Brashears	

<i>Spouse's Other Names Used</i> (current spouse only)						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<small>Check if Maiden Name</small>	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Children's Names (if over 18)</i>			
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Middle Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Suffix</b>
Bailey	Nichole	Brashears	
Reagan	Lynne	Brashears	
Presley	Gray	Brashears	

## 2. Education

List all post-secondary schools attended.

<b><u>Name of School</u></b>	<b><u>Type of School</u></b> (vocational/technical/trade school, college/university/military college, correspondence/distance/extension/online school)	<b><u>Date Began School</u></b> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<b><u>Date Ended School</u></b> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still in school)	<b><u>Degree</u></b>	<b><u>Date Awarded</u></b>
Texas Tech	University	Est August, 1988 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present May, 1992 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BS	1992
Oklahoma State	University	Est August, 1992 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present May, 1994 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	MS	1994
Oklahoma State	University	Est August, 1994 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present May, 1997 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	PhD	1997
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		

### 3. Employment

(A) In reverse chronological order, list all of your employment activities, including unemployment and self-employment. If the employment activity was military duty, list separate employment activity periods to show each change of military duty station. Do not list employment before your 18th birthday unless to provide a minimum of two years of employment history.

<b><u>Type of Employment</u></b> (Active Military Duty Station, National Guard/Reserve, USPS Commissioned Corps, Other Federal employment, State Government (Non-Federal Employment), Self-employment, Unemployment, Federal Contractor, Non-Government Employment (excluding self-employment), Other)	<b><u>Name of Your Employer/Assigned Duty Station</u></b>	<b><u>Most Recent Position Title/Rank</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b> (City and State only)	<b><u>Date Employment Began</u></b> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<b><u>Date Employment Ended</u></b> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still employed)
State Government	Texas Tech University	Horn Professor	Lubbock, TX	August 2021	Present
Self Employment	Self	Consultant	Lubbock, TX	February 2021	Present
Federal Employment	USDA	Under Secretary for Food Safety	Washington, DC	March 2020	January 2021
Federal Employment	USDA	Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety	Washington, DC	January 2019	March 2020
State Government	Texas Tech University	Roth and Letch Family Endowed Chair in Food Safety	Lubbock, TX	March 2018	Present <i>*Leave of absence during USDA service</i>
State Government	Texas Tech University	Professor	Lubbock, TX	September 2009	Present <i>*Leave of absence during USDA service</i>
State Government	Texas Tech University	Associate Professor	Lubbock, TX	September 2004	September 2009
State Government	Texas Tech University	Faculty Member, Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy	Lubbock, TX	2003	Present <i>*Leave of absence during USDA service</i>
State Government	Texas Tech University	Director – International Center for	Lubbock, TX	2001	Present

		Food Industry Excellence			<i>*Leave of absence during USDA service</i>
State Government	Texas Tech University	Assistant Professor	Lubbock, TX	May 2001	September 2004
State Government	University of Nebraska	Assistant Professor	Lincoln, NE	August 1997	May 2001
State Government	Oklahoma State University	Graduate Research Assistant		August 1992	August 1997
State Government	Texas Tech University	Student Worker	Lubbock, TX	August 1988	May 1992
Farm Worker	Hardcastle Farms	Farm Hand	Wheeler, TX	May 1984 (est)	August 1998

**(B) List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with federal, state, or local governments, not listed elsewhere.**

<u>Name of Government Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
USDA	Panel Member and Panel Manager for USDA Grant Funding- National Research Initiative Competitive grants programs	Est May 1997 <input type="checkbox"/>	Est July 2001 <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>

**(C) List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other for profit or nonprofit organization that is not otherwise listed in response to question 3(A).**

<u>Name of Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
Boar's Head Food Safety Advisory Council	Advisory Council Member	October 2024	Present
Ag Innovation and Creation LLC	Owner (no longer a company)	April 2024	October 2025
Bottomland Technology LLC	Owner, Director, and President (no longer a company)	August 2023	March 2025



Acacia Investment Group LLC	Manager	Est March 2023	Est January 2025
North American Meat Institute Protein PACT Academic Advisory Council	Member of Advisory Council	January 2023	Present
National Livestock Educational Board	Board of Directors	March 2022	Present
International Stockmen's Education Foundation	Board of Directors	January 2022	Present
Global Food Innovations LLC	Manager	Est Jan 2022	Present
BioSafe	Board of Directors	November 2021	May 2022 (estimate)
American Meat Science Association	Board of Directors	June 2021	June 2023
Claxton Poultry Food Safety Advisory Group	Member	May 2021	Present
MicroZap	Board of Directors	March 2021	May 2025
NextGen Innovations LLC	Chief Scientist, Owner (divested prior to serving as Under Secretary in first term)	March 2016	January 2019
MicroZap	Board of Directors, Chief Scientist	October 2007	January 2019
Alliance Microtech, Inc	Director	Est Jan 2007	Est Jan 2008
Professional HACCP Services	Owner/Partner (no longer a company)	Est Aug 2001	Est Aug 2012
International HACCP Alliance	Lead Instructor	December 1998	Present
Nebraska Egg council	Director	Estimated 1999	Estimated 2000

**(D) Please submit a copy of your resume with this questionnaire.**

#### 4. Honors and Awards

**List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, civilian service citations, military medals, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.**

- Signal Service Fellow Award – American Meat Science Association - 2025
- Member of the Meat Industry Hall of Fame – 2023 Class
- Distinguished Alumni Award from Oklahoma State Ferguson College of Agriculture -2021
- Totusek Distinguished Lecturer – Oklahoma State University – 2020 and 2021
- Distinguished Research Award – American Meat Science Association, 2018
- Campus Internationalization Award to the International Center for Food Industry Excellence – Texas Tech University Office of International Affairs, 2017 and 2018
- Outstanding Woman Leader Award – West Texas Association of Women in STEAM, 2017
- Distinguished Extension/Industry Award – American Meat Science Association, 2017
- Keynote Address Speaker – International Congress on Meat Science and Technology (ICoMST) in Cork, Ireland, 2017
- Fellow – National Academy of Inventors, (first for a faculty member from Texas Tech), 2016
- Top 25 Future Icon of the Beef Industry – National Provisioner Magazine, 2016
- Scientist of the Year – Lubbock chapter of the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation, 2014
- Laboratorian Award – International Association for Food Protection, 2014
- Hill Seminar Distinguished Scientist – Penn State University, 2012
- Farm Foundation – Exemplary Teamwork and Collaboration Award, 2011
- CASNR Advising Award – Texas Tech University, 2010
- Distinguished Achievement Award – American Meat Science Association, 2009
- Integrated Scholar – Texas Tech University, 2009
- Presidents Academic Achievement Award – Texas Tech University, 2008
- “20 Under 40” Award – Young Professionals of Greater Lubbock, 2008
- Advanced Degree Graduate of Distinction – Oklahoma State University, 2008
- Big 12 Rising Star Award for Innovation In Research and Technology Transfer, 2006
- Research Award – College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), Texas Tech University, 2005
- Selected as one of the top 6 experts in the United States on *E. coli* O157 to participate in the FSIS *E. coli* O157 Expert Solicitation Panel, 2005
- Invited as one of the top 30 scientists in the world to participate in a scientific panel, “Probiotic Microbes: The Scientific Basis” by the American Academy of Microbiology, the honorific leadership group of the American Society for Microbiology, November 2005

- Appointed to Scientific Review Team for the USDA Risk Assessment for *E. coli* O157:H7, 2004
- USDA NRI Panel Manager – Food Safety, 2001 and 2002
- USDA NRI Panel Member – Food Safety, 2000
- *E. coli* O157 Task Force – National Cattleman’s Beef Association- 2001-2003
- Burroughs Wellcome Fund Visiting Professorship in Microbiological Sciences – American Society for Microbiology – Served as a visiting professor in Food Safety and HACCP at the University of Puerto Rico, Humacao-1999
- Epsilon Sigma Phi Team Award – Urban Pest Management Team, 1999
- Silver Award for HACCP Video – National Ag Communicators of Tomorrow -1998
- Outstanding Ph.D. Student in the Department of Animal Science, Oklahoma State University, 1997
- E.M. Ahmed Graduate Student Scientist Award, 1997
- Joe V. Whiteman Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research Paper, 1994 and 1997
- Sigma Xi 1990-1992
- Phi Kappa Phi 1990-1992
- Gamma Sigma Delta 1990-1992
- Golden Key 1990-1992
- Alpha Zeta 1990-1992
- Cardinal Key 1990-1992
- Alpha Lambda Delta 1990-1992
- Phi Tau Sigma Lifetime Member (Joined in 1990)

## **5. Memberships**

**List all memberships that you have held in professional, social, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, or charitable organizations in the last 10 years.**

National Academy of Inventors (Fellow)  
 American Society for Microbiology  
 International Association for Food Protection  
 Institute of Food Technologists  
 American Meat Science Association (Fellow)  
     Board of Directors 2021-2024  
     Elected as RMC Chair for 2023  
     Development Council 2024-2025  
 Conference for Research Workers and Animal Diseases  
 National Alliance for Food Safety – Former President and Vice-President  
 S-295 USDA Multi-State Research Project, Food Safety  
     Other Offices Held: Secretary and Chair-Elect  
 National Alliance for Food Safety and Security  
 Waterfront Church, DC – member  
 Bacon Heights Baptist Church- Lubbock, TX -member

Texas Tech Club-member

Unless relevant to your nomination, you do NOT need to include memberships in charitable organizations available to the public as a result of a tax deductible donation of \$1,000 or less, parent-teacher associations or other organizations connected to schools attended by your children, athletic clubs or teams, automobile support organizations (such as AAA), discounts clubs (such as Groupon or Sam's Club), or affinity memberships/consumer clubs (such as frequent flyer memberships).

### 6. Political Activity

(A) Have you ever been a candidate for or been elected or appointed to a political office?

☐ Yes ☒ No (If yes, please complete the chart below)

<u>Name of Office</u>	<u>Elected/Appointed/ Candidate Only</u>	<u>Year(s) Election Held or Appointment Made</u>	<u>Term of Service (if applicable)</u>

(B) List any offices held in or services rendered, including volunteer services, to a political party or election committee during the last 10 years that you have not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Party/Election Committee</u>	<u>Office/Services Rendered</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Republican		Jodey Arrington / Yard Sign and Public Endorsement / Placed a yard sign for Jodey Arrington and was listed in a document publicly endorsing	2016

--	--	--	--

(C) Itemize all individual political contributions of \$200 or more that you have made in the past five years to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity. Please list each individual contribution and not the total amount contributed to the person or entity during the year.

<u>Name of Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year of Contribution</u>

## 7. Publications and Speeches

List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials that you have written, including articles published on the Internet. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all required publications even if no copy of the publication is available to provide.

*NOTE: The following list is as complete as possible given reconciliation with personal files, university files and internet searches. No publication has been excluded intentionally, but given the number of publications, there could be something that was missed. I am happy to provide and discuss anything that could be missing.*

*An external hard drive with copies of the majority of the publications will be sent via mail.*

*This list is dynamic and changes regularly as many peer reviewed manuscripts are in review and many abstracts are pending presentation in 2025 meetings.*

### 2025 Manuscripts Published/Accepted

Zhang, S., R.L. Brashears, M.M. Brashears, M. Sanchez, and S.E. Gragg. 2025. A Nationwide Surveillance of *Salmonella* in Cull Boar, Sow, and Gilt Lymph Nodes and Tonsils from Abattoirs in the United States. J Food Prot (In Press).

Gamez, I.M.J., M. M Brashears, K.K. Nightingale, T. P. Stephens, C. E. Martinez-Soto, E. Chow. 2025. [Impact of FortiPhi-S bacteriophage solution on the environmental microbiome in poultry litter systems from commercial operations](#). Poultry Sci. 104:8.

Campos, D.L., A. Perdomo, K.K. Nightingale, J. Franco, L. Jimenez, M. M. Brashears. 2025. Lactic Acid Bacteria Synergy: Electrostatic Spraying, Dipping, and Formulation Applications of *Lactobacillus salivarius* L28 and *Enterococcus faecium* J19 to Enhance Cheese Safety Against *Listeria monocytogenes*. J Food Prot. [Volume 88, Issue 6](#), 22 May 2025, 100507.

Castelli, E.M., D. L Campos, A. English, K. K. Nightingale, M. M. Brashears. 2025. [Using a Dose-Response Approach on the Growth of Food-Borne Pathogens in Feces of Cattle Fed Three Different Direct-Fed Rations Reveals the Efficacy of \*Lactobacillus salivarius\* L28](#). J Food Prot. 88(6):100502

Portillo-Alarcon, R.M., M. M. Brashears, M. X. Sanchez-Plata, A. Roldan, M. F. Miller. 2025. [Biomapping and Enviromapping of Microbial Indicators and Pathogens in a Commercial Beef Processing Facility](#). MMB. Volume 9 Issue 1.

MM Brashears, RL Jimenez, RM Portillo, R Bueno, BD Montoya, A Echeverry, MX Sanchez. 2025. [Innovative approaches to controlling \*Salmonella\* in the meat industry](#). [Volume 219](#), January 2025, 109673.

#### 2024 Manuscripts Published/Accepted

Fashenpour E, D. A. Vargas, G. K. Betancourt-Barszcz, S. E. Blandon, M. X. Sanchez-Plata, M. M. Brashears, M. F. Miller, Q. Kang, V. Trinetta, J. L. Vipham, R. K. Phebus, and S. E. Gragg. 2024. *Salmonella* Prevalence and Quantification in Market Hog Lymph Nodes and Tonsils in Several Regions and Seasons of the United States. *J Food Prot.* [V 87, 10](#), 100357

Flach, M.G., O. B. Dogan, M. F. Miller, M. X. Sanchez, and M. M. Brashears. 2024. Comparison of Three Preharvest Sampling Strategies to Monitor Pathogens in Cattle Lairage Areas. *J Food Prot.* V87, V4, 100258.

Ophelm, T.S., J. O Sarturi, B. M. Rodrigues, K. K Nightingale, M.M. Brashears, B. Q. Reis, M. A. Ballou, M. F. Miller, D. E Casas. 2024. Effects of a novel direct-fed microbial on growth performance, carcass characteristics, nutrient digestibility, and ruminal morphology of beef feedlot steers. *Journal of Animal Science*, Volume 101, skad404

Vargas, D.A., R.B. López, D. E. Casas, A. M. Osorio-Doblado, K. M. Rodríguez, N. Vargas, S. E. Gragg, M. M. Brashears, M. F. Miller and M. X. Sanchez-Plata. 2024. Modernization Data Analysis and Visualization for Food Safety Research Outcomes. *Appl. Sci.* 2024, *14*(12), 5259.

#### 2023

Dogan, O.D., MG Flach, MF Miller, MM Brashears. 2023. Understanding potential cattle contribution to leafy green outbreaks: A scoping review of the literature and public health reports. *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety* 22 (5), 3506-3530.

Flach, M.G., O.B. Dogan, M.F. Miller, M.X. Sanchez-Plata, MM Brashears. 2023. Validation of a Bacteriophage Hide Application to Reduce STEC in the Lairage Area of Commercial Beef Cattle Operations. *Foods* 12 (23), 4349.

Flach, M.G. O.B. Dogan, W.M. Kreikemeier, K.K. Nightingale, M.M. Brashears. 2023, Prevalence of Foodborne Pathogens in Pacific Northwest Beef Feedlot Cattle Fed Two Different Direct-Fed Microbials. *Journal of food protection* 86 (10), 100139.

Jiménez, R.L., M. M. Brashears, R. B. López, D. A. Vargas, M. X. Sanchez-Plata. 2023. Mitigation of *Salmonella* in Ground Pork Products through Gland Removal in Pork Trimmings. *Foods* 12 (20), 3802.

Jimenez, R.L. R. Bueno-Lopez, D. A. Vargas, M. M. Brashears, M.X. Sanchez-Plata. 2023. Quantitative Bio-Mapping of *Salmonella* and Indicator Organisms at Different Stages in a Commercial Pork Processing Facility. *Foods* 11 (17), 2580

Opheim, T.S. J. O. Sarturi, B. M. Rodrigues, K. K. Nightingale, M.M. Brashears, B. Q. Reis, M. A. Ballou, M.F. Miller, D. E. Casas. 2023. Effects of a novel direct-fed microbial on growth performance, carcass characteristics, nutrient digestibility, and ruminal morphology of beef feedlot steers. *Journal of Animal Science* 101; 404.

Vargas, D. A., G. K. Betancourt-Barszcz, S. E. Blandon, S. F. Applegate, M. M. Brashears, M. F. Miller, S. E. Gragg, M. X. Sanchez-Plata. 2023. Rapid Quantitative Method Development for Beef and Pork Lymph Nodes Using BAX<sup>®</sup> System Real Time *Salmonella* Assay. *Foods* 12 (4), 822.

## 2022

Chen, H., M. M. Brashears, Q. Zhong. 2022. Sodium benzoate and sodium bisulfate as preservatives in apple juice and alternative sanitizers for washing cherry tomatoes. *Int J Food Micro* 372:109697.

Englishbey, A.K., A. T. Sukumaran, Phuong TT Vu, Yen T Thuc, Man VV Le, Dzung H Nguyen, Paul R Broadway, Lacey M Guillen, Mindy M Brashears, Janet R Donaldson, M Wes Schilling, Chelsie B Dahlgren, Brian J Rude, Mark A Crenshaw, Thu TN Dinh, AK Englishbey, PTT Vu, YT Thuc, MVV Le, DH Nguyen, PR Broadway, LM Guillen, MM Brashears, JR Donaldson, MW Schilling, C Dahlgren, BJ Rude, MA Crenshaw, TTN Dinh. 2022. Influence of Market Type and Time of Purchase on Bacterial Counts and Salmonella and Listeria Prevalence in Whole Chickens in Vietnam. *MMB*: 6(1)

Flach, M.G., O. B. Dogan, W. M. Kreikemeier, K. K. Nightingale, and M. M. Brashears. 2022. Reduction of Pathogens in Feces and Lymph Nodes Collected from Beef Cattle Fed *Lactobacillus salivarius* (L28), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* (NP51) and *Propionibacterium freudenreichii* (NP28), Commercially Available Direct-Fed Microbials. *Foods*: 11(23):3824.

Huerta-Leidenz, N., N. Jerez-Timaure, A. Rodas-González, J. Onorino Sarturi, M. M Brashears, M. F. Miller, M. T. Brashears. 2022. The Effects of Castration, Implant Protocol, and Supplementation of *Bos indicus*-Influenced Beef Cattle under Tropical Savanna Conditions on Growth Performance, Carcass Characteristics, and Meat Quality. *Animals*. 12(3):366.

López,R.B., D. A. Vargas, R. L. Jimenez, D. E. Casas, M. F. Miller, M. M. Brashears, M. X. Sanchez-Plata. 2022. Quantitative Bio-Mapping of *Salmonella* and Indicator Organisms at Different Stages in a Commercial Pork Processing Facility. *Foods*: 11(17):2850.



Vargas,D.A., K. M. Rodríguez, G. K. Betancourt-Barszcz, M. I. Ajcet-Reyes, O. B. Dogan, E. Randazzo, M. X. Sánchez-Plata, M. M Brashears, M. F. Miller. 2022. Bio-Mapping of Microbial Indicators to Establish Statistical Process Control Parameters in a Commercial Beef Processing Facility. *Foods*: 11(8):1133.

## 2021

Calle, A., Carrascal, A. K., Patiño, C., Carpio, C., Echeverry, A., & Brashears, M. (2021). Seasonal effect on *Salmonella*, Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* O157:H7 and non-O157 in the beef industry in Colombia, South America. *Heliyon*, 7(7), e07547.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2021.e07547>

Casas, D.E., Vargas, D.A., Randazzo, E, Lynn, D., Echeverry, A., Brashears, M.M., Sanchez-Plata, M.X., and Miller, M.M. 2021. In-Plant Validation of Novel On-Site Ozone Generation Technology (Bio-Safe) Compared to Lactic Acid Beef Carcasses and Trim Using Natural Microbiota and *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157:H7 Surrogate Enumeration. *Foods*. 10(5), 1002.

Casas, D.E., Manishimwe, R., Forgey, S.J., Hanlon, K.E., Miller,M.F. Brashears, M.M., and Sanchez-Plata, M.X. 2021. Biomapping of Microbial Indicators on Beef Subprimals Subjected to Spray or Dry Chilling over Prolonged Refrigerated Storage. *Foods*. 10:1403.

Englishbey, A.K., Anuraj, Sukumaran<sup>b</sup>, T., Vu, T., Thuc, Y.T., Le, M.V.V., Nguyen, D.H., Broadway, P.R., Guillen, L.M., Brashears, M.M., Donaldson, Schilling, M.R. Dahlgren, C., Brian, Rude, J, Crenshaw, M.A and Dinh, T.T.N. 2021. Influence of market type and time of purchase on bacterial counts and *Salmonella* and *Listeria* prevalence in whole chickens in Vietnam. *Meat and Muscle Biology*. In Press.

Hanlon,K.E., Joshua C McCann, Mark F Miller, Mindy M Brashears, Colton L Smith, J Chance Brooks, Jerrad F Legako. 2021. Microbial profile evaluation of beef steaks from different packaging and retail lighting display conditions. *MMB*. Issue: Volume 5 • Issue 1 • 2021

[Huerta-Leidenz](#), N., [Jerez-Timaure](#), N., [Sarturi](#), J.O., [Brashears](#), M.M., [Miller](#), M.F., [Moya](#), A., [Godoy](#), S. 2021. Effects of Sex Class, a Combined Androgen and Estrogen Implant, and Pasture Supplementation on Growth and Carcass Performance and Meat Quality of Zebu-Type Grass-Fed Cattle. *Animals*. 11(12):3441.

[Huerta-Leidenz](#), N., [Jerez-Timaure](#), N., Rodas-Gonzalez, A, [Sarturi](#), J.O., [Brashears](#), M.M., [Miller](#), M.F., [Moya](#), A., [Godoy](#), S. and Brashears, M.T. 2021. The effects of castration, implant protocol, and supplementation of *Bos indicus*-influenced beef cattle under tropical savanna conditions on growth performance, carcass characteristics, and meat quality. *Animals*. 11(12):3441.

Ramirez-Hernandez, A, Carrascal-Camacho, A.K., Varón-García, A, Brashears, M.M., Sanchez-Plata, M.X. 2021. [Genotypic Characterization of Antimicrobial Resistant Salmonella spp. Strains from Three Poultry Processing Plants in Colombia](#). 10(3), 491.

Vargas, D.A., Cases, D.E., Chaves-Velado, D.R., Brashears, R.L., Betancourt-Barszcz, G.K., Randazzo, E., Echeverry, E., Brashears, M.M., Sanchez-Plata, M.X., Miller, M.F. 2021. In-Plant Intervention Validation of a Novel Ozone Generation Technology (Bio-Safe) Compared to Lactic Acid in Variety Meats. *Foods*. 10(9), 2016.

Vargas DA, Casas DE, Chávez-Velado DR, Jiménez RL, Betancourt-Barszcz GK, Randazzo E, Lynn D, Echeverry A, Brashears MM, Sánchez-Plata MX, Miller MF. In-Plant Intervention Validation of a Novel Ozone Generation Technology (Bio-Safe) Compared to Lactic Acid in Variety Meats. *Foods*. 2021 Sep 6;10(9):2106. doi: 10.3390/foods10092106. PMID: 34574215; PMCID: PMC8466611.

## 2020

Forgey, S.J., Englishbey, A.K., Casas, D.E., Jackson, S.P., Miller, M.F., Echeverry, A. Brashears, M.M. 2020. [Presence of Presumptive Shiga Toxin–Producing \*Escherichia coli\* and \*Salmonella\* on Sheep during Harvest in Honduras](#). *J Food Prot*. 83(11); 2008-2013.

Thompson, A, Calle, M.A., Ribeiro, F.R., Pond, A.R., Kreikemeier, W., McDonald, A., Johnson, E.G., Edmonds, M.D., Loneragan, G.H., Brashears, M.M., and Johnson, B.J. 2020. [Effect of Direct-Fed Microbial Supplementation on Pathogenic \*Escherichia coli\* Fecal Shedding, Live Performance, and Carcass Characteristics in Feedlot Steers](#). *J Animal Sci*. 10(4); 683-705.

Casas, D., Calle, M.A., Bueso, M., Huerta-Leidenz, N., Miller, M.F., Brashears, M.M. 2020. [Multiple Interventions for Improving Food Safety Practices in two Small Beef Abattoirs of Honduras and Associated Impacts on Risk-Mitigation Management](#). *Env Health Ins*. 14.

Calle, M.A. and Brashears, M.M.. 2020. [Microbial Contamination of Grocery Shopping Trolleys and Baskets in West Texas](#). *Food Prot Trends*. 40(1): 8-15.

## 2019

Dias, E., Sarturi, J.O., Opheim, T., Henry, D.D., Hoffmann, C.A., Sandes, M.D, Millen, D.D., Bouyi, I. Miller, M.F., Echeverry, A, Brashears, M.M., Urso, P, Espinoza-Rock, N.J. 2019. [PSXIV-18 Feeding behavior of feedlot steers fed combinations of feed additives](#). *J Anim Sci*. 97:437.

Vargas,D.V., Miller, M.F., Garnica, H., English, A., Hanlon, K., Brashears, M.M. 2019. [Effect of Organic Acid Applications on Organoleptic Properties of Ground Pork](#). *Meat and Musc Biol*. 3: 136.

HD Garnica, MF Miller, DA Vargas, AR English, KE Hanlon, MM Brashears. 2019. [Effect of Different Antimicrobial Applications on Color Stability of Ground Pork](#). Meat and Muscle Biol. 3:106.

Ramirez-Hernandez, A., Bugarel, M., Kumar, S., Thippareddi, H., Brashears, M.M. Sanchez-Plata, M.X. 2019. Peonotypic and Genotypic Characterization of Antimicrobial Resistance in *Salmonella* Strains Isolated from Chicken Carcasses and Parts Collected at Different Stages during Processing. J Food Prot. 82(10); 1793-1801

Cuellar, D., Brooks, J.C., Miller, M.F., Sanchez-Plata, M.F., Brashears, M.M., Echeverry, E. 2019. [Evaluation of STEC on Beef Intended for Non-intact Use After Treatment with Microwaves and Low Temperature Storage](#). Food Prot Trends. 39(4) 296-304.

Ayala, D., Cook, P., Franco, J., Bugarel, M., Kottapalli, K.R., Loneragan, G.H., Brashears, M.M. Nightingale, K.K. 2019. [A systematic approach to identify and characterize the effectiveness and safety of novel probiotic strains to control foodborne pathogens](#). Frontiers in Microbiology. 10:1108.

Laury-Shaw, A., Gragg, S.E., Echeverry, E. and Brashears, M.M. 2019. Survival of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 after application of lactic acid bacteria. J Food Sci Ag. 99(4); 1548-1553.

Casas, D., Brashears, M.M., Miller, M.F., Inestroza, B., Bueso-Ponce, M., Huerta-Leidenz, N., Calle, A., Paz, R., Bueno, M., Echeverry, A. 2019. [In-Plant Validation Study of Harvest Process Controls in Two Beef Processing Plants in Honduras](#). J Food Prot. 82 (4); 677-683.

Maradiaga, M., Echeverry, E., Miller, M.F., den Bakker, H., Nightingale, K.K., Cook, P.W. Brashears, M.T., and Brashears, M.M. 2019. [Characterization of Antimicrobial Resistant \(AMR\) \*Salmonella\* Enterica Isolates Associated with Cattle at Harvest in Mexico](#). Meat Muscle Bio. 3:1.

Miller, M., Brashears, M., Casas, D.E. and Calle, A., 2019. Shiga Toxin Producing *Escherichia coli* Presence in Environmental Samples Collected from 4 Different Meat Processing Plants in Honduras. *Meat and Muscle Biology*, 1(3).

## 2018

Casas, D., **M. Brashears**, M. Miller, B. Inestroza, M. Bueso-Ponce, N. Huerta-Leidenz, A. Calle, R. Paz, M. Bueno and A. Echeverry. 2018. In-Plant Validation Study of Harvest Process-Controls in Two Beef Processing Plants in Honduras. *J Food Prot* (Accepted).

Hardcastle, N.C., A.J. Garmyn, J.F. Legako, **M.M. Brashears** and M.F. Miller. 2018. The Effect of Finishing Diet on Consumer Perception of Enhanced and Non-Enhanced Honduran Beef. *Meat Muscle Biol* 2(1):277-295.

- Laury-Shaw, A., S.E. Gragg, A. Echeverry and **M.M. Brashears**. 2018. Use of electrostatic spraying and sprinkler irrigation with lactic acid bacteria as a potential pre-harvest intervention against *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 on spinach plants. *J Sci Food Agric* 2018 Aug 24. DOI:10.1002/jsfa.9332.
- Gomez, A.R., A.J. Garmyn, T.G. O'Quinn, M.E. Bueso, J.C. Brooks, **M.M. Brashears** and M.F. Miller. 2018. Honduran and U.S. Consumer Assessment of Beef from Various Production Systems With or Without Marinating. *Meat Muscle Biol* 2(1):242-253.
- Bueso, M.E., A.J. Garmyn, T.G. O'Quinn, J.C. Brooks, **M.M. Brashears** and M.F. Miller. 2018. Comparing Honduran and United States Consumers' Sensory Perceptions of Honduran and U.S. Beef Loin Steaks. *Meat Muscle Biol* 2(1):233-241.
- Ayala, D.I., J.C. Chen, M. Bugarel, G.H. Loneragan, H.C. den Bakker, K.R. Kottapalli, **M.M. Brashears**, K.K. Nightingale. 2018. Molecular detection and quantification of viable probiotic strains in animal feedstuffs using the commercial direct fed microbial *Lactobacillus animalis* NP51 as a model. *J Microbiol Methods* 149:36-43.
- Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller, L.M. Guillen, A. Echeverry, E. Dormedy, B. Cemo, L.A. Branham, S. Sanders, **M.M. Brashears**. 2018. Presence of Salmonella and Escherichia coli O157 on the hide, and presence of Salmonella and Escherichia coli O157 and Campylobacter in feces from small-ruminant (goat and lamb) samples collected in the United States, Bahamas and Mexico. *Meat Sci* 135:1-5.
- Alnajrani, M., K. Hanlon, A. English, K. Fermin, **M.M. Brashears** and A. Echeverry. 2018. Comparing the Recovery of Indicator Microorganisms from Beef Trimmings Using Swabbing, Rinsing, and Grinding Methodologies. *Meat Muscle Biol* 2:154-161.
- Calle, A., G.H. Loneragan and **M.M. Brashears**. Serogroup Variation with Use of Immunomagnetic Separation to Detect and Isolate Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* O157 and the Big Six Non-O157. 2018. *Food Prot Trends* 38(3):178-185.
- Ramirez-Hernandez, A., **M.M. Brashears** and M.X. Sanchez-Plata. 2018. Efficacy of Lactic Acid, Lactic Acid-Citric-Acid Blends, and Peracetic Acid to Reduce Salmonella on Chicken Parts under Simulated Commercial Processing Conditions. *J Food Prot* 81(1):17-24.
- Chaney, W.E., R. Maloney, B.J. Johnson, J.C. Brooks, **M.M. Brashears** and G.H. Loneragan. 2018. Corn-Based Distillers' Grain in the Diets for Feedlot Cattle is Associated with the Burden of *Escherichia coli* O157 in Feces. *Foodborne Pathog Dis* 15(7):398-405.
- Ayala, D.I., P.W. Cook, D.L. Campos, J. Franco, **M.M. Brashears**, H. den Bakker, K.K. Nightingale. 2018. Draft Genome Sequence of *Enterococcus faecium* J19 isolated from Cabbage. *ASM Genome Announc*, genomeA.00213-18.
- Ramirez-Hernandez, A., B. Inestroza, A. Parks, and **M. Brashears**, M. Sanchez-Plata, A. Echeverry. 2018. Thermal Inactivation of Salmonella in High-Fat Rendering Products. *J Food Prot* 81(1):54-58.

Hanlon KE, Echeverry A, Miller MF, Brashears MM. Establishment of a preliminary baseline of *Salmonella* presence on pork and goat carcasses harvested in the Bahamas to address food and nutritional security interventions. *Anim Front*. 2018 Nov 9;8(4):26-32. doi: 10.1093/af/vfy022. PMID: 32002227; PMCID: PMC6951980.

Webb HE, Brichta-Harhay DM, Brashears MM, Nightingale KK, Arthur TM, Bosilevac JM, Kalchayanand N, Schmidt JW, Wang R, Granier SA, Brown TR, Edrington TS, Shackelford SD, Wheeler TL, Loneragan GH. *Salmonella* in Peripheral Lymph Nodes of Healthy Cattle at Slaughter. *Front Microbiol*. 2017 Nov 9;8:2214

Rodriguez, K., Cerjan, K., Mahalite, E., Calle, A., Brashears, M. and Miller, M., 2018. Effect of Lactic Acid Treatment on *E. coli* and Coliform Growth in Ground Beef after Different Storage Periods and Retail Display Days. *Meat and Muscle Biology*, 2(2).

Voegele, H.R., Hardcastle, N.C., Legako, J.F., Garmyn, A.J., Brashears, M.M. and Miller, M.F., 2018. Fatty Acid Composition of Honduran Beef from Various Finishing Diets. *Meat and Muscle Biology*, 2(2).

Inestroza, B., Miller, M., English, A., Bueso, M., Opheim, T., Sarturi, J.O. and Brashears, M.M., 2018. Salmonella Presence on Hides, Carcasses and in Lymph Nodes in Beef Cattle Fed Palm Kernel Meal and Poultry Litter Based Diets in Honduras During Dry and Rainy Seasons. *Meat and Muscle Biology*, 1(2).

## 2017

Chaves, B.D., S. Pokharel, A. Echeverry, J.L. Vipham, M.F. Miller and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Impact of Carcass Anatomical Location on the Microbiological Profile of Beef Trimmings. *Food Prot Trends*, 37(6): 403–408.

Ayala, D.I., P.W. Cook, D.L. Campos, **M.M. Brashears**, H. den Bakker, K.K. Nightingale. 2017. Draft Genome Sequence of *Lactobacillus salivarius* L28 isolated from Ground Beef. *ASM Genome Announc* 5, e00955-17. doi:10.1128/genomeA.00955-17.

Ayala, D., K.K. Nightingale, C. Narvaez-Bravo, and **M. M. Brashears**. 2017. Molecular Characterization of *Salmonella* from Beef Carcasses and Fecal samples from an Integrated Feedlot and Abattoir in Mexico. *J Food Prot* 80(12):1964-1972.

**Brashears, M.M.** and B.D. Chaves. 2017. The Diversity of Beef Safety: A Global Reason to Strengthen our Current Systems. *Meat Sci* 132:59-71.

Chaves, B.D., **M.M. Brashears**, and K.K. Nightingale. 2017. Applications and Safety Considerations of *Lactobacillus salivarius* as a Probiotic in Animal and Human Health. *J Appl Microbiol* 3 Mar 2017 DOI: 10.1111/jam.13438.

Tapp, W.N., T.H. Davis, D. Paniukov, J.C. Brooks, **M.M. Brashears** and M.F. Miller. 2017. Beef assessments using functional magnetic resonance imaging and sensory evaluation. *Meat Sci* 126:11-17.

Chaves, B.D., H. Ruiz, L.G. Garcia, A. Echeverry, L. Thompson, M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. High Prevalence of Salmonella in Lymph Nodes and Tonsils of Swine Presented for Slaughter in Mexico. *Food Prot Trends*. 1:25-29.

## 2016

K.E. Hanlon, M.F. Miller, L.M. Guillen, **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Salmonella presence in mandibular, mesenteric, and subiliac lymph nodes collected from sheep and goats in the United States. *J Food Prot* 79 (11):1977-1981.

Pokharel S., J.C. Brooks, J.N. Martin, A. Echeverry, A.R. Parks, B. Corliss, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Internalization and thermal susceptibility of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in marinated beef products. *Meat Sci* 116:213-220.

Pokharel, S. J.C. Brooks, J.N. Martin, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Antimicrobial susceptibility and internalization of *Salmonella typhimurium* in vacuum-tumbled marinated beef products. *Let Appl Microbiol* 63:412-418.

Pond, A., M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, N. Huerta, M.A. Calle, M.S. Rubio Lozano, A. Chavez, M.T. Brashears, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Salmonella and *E. coli* O157:H7 Prevalence and Generic *E. coli* and Coliform Quantitative Baseline in Raw Pork and Beef in Retail Channels in Mexico. *Food Prot Trends* 36:8-17.

## 2015

McCain, A.K., P. T. T. Vu, T. T. M. Tran, M. V. V. Le, D. H. Nguyen, P. R. Broadway, L. M. Guillen, **M. M. Brashears**, J. R. Donaldson, M. W. Schilling, and T. T. N. Dinh. 2015. Influence of Market Setting and Time of Purchase on Bacterial Counts and Prevalence of Salmonella and Listeria in Pork in Vietnam. *Agric Food Anal Bacteriol* 5:166-182.

McCain, A.K., P. T. T. Vu, T. T. M. Tran, M. V. V. Le, D. H. Nguyen, P. R. Broadway, L. M. Guillen, **M. M. Brashears**, J. R. Donaldson, M. W. Schilling, and T. T. N. Dinh. 2015. Influence of Market Setting and Time of Purchase on Counts of Aerobic Bacteria, *Escherichia coli*, and Coliform and Prevalence of Salmonella and Listeria in Beef in Vietnam. *Agric Food Anal Bacteriol* 5:132-152.

Casco, G., Johnson, J. L., Taylor, T. M., Gaytán, C. N., **Brashears, M. M.**, and Alvarado, C. Z. 2015. Controlling *Listeria monocytogenes* Scott A on Surfaces of Fully Cooked Turkey Deli Product Using Organic Acid-Containing Marinades as Post-Lethality Dips. *Intl J Food Sci*, 2015.

Corliss, B., Brooks, J. C., Martin, J. N., Echeverry, A., Parks, A., Pokharel, S., and **Brashears, M.** 2015. The Influence of Beef Quality Characteristics on the Internalization and Thermal Susceptibility of Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in Blade-Tenderized Beef Steaks. *Meat Sci* 110: 85-92.

- Narvaez-Bravo, C., A. Echeverry, M.F. Miller, A. Rodas-Gonzalez, M.T. Brashears, M. Aslam, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2015. Virulence characterization and molecular subtyping of typical and atypical *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and O157:H(-) isolated from fecal samples and beef carcasses in Mexico. *J Food Prot* 78:264-272.
- Chaves, B.D., A. Echeverry, M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2015. Prevalence of molecular markers for Salmonella and Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in whole-muscle beef cuts sold at retail markets in Costa Rica. *Food Control* 50:497-501.
- Liao, Y.-T.; Brooks, J. C.; Martin, J. N.; Echeverry, A.; Loneragan, G. H.; **Brashears, M. M.** 2015. Antimicrobial Interventions for O157:H7 and Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* on Beef Subprimal and Mechanically Tenderized Steaks. *J of Food Prot* 78(3):511-517.
- Chaves, B. D., Echeverry, A., García, L. G., Brashears, M. T., Miller, M. F., and **Brashears, M. M.** 2015. Seasonal prevalence of potentially positive non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) bovine hides and carcasses in Costa Rica. *Meat Sci* 110:196-200.
- Maradiaga, M., Miller, M. F., Thompson, L., Pond, A., Gragg, S. E., Echeverry, A., L.G. Garcia, G.H. Loneragan, and **Brashears, M. M.** 2015. Salmonella in Beef and Produce from Honduras. . *J Food Prot* 78(3):498-502.
- Vipham, J. L., G. H. Loneragan, L. M. Guillen, J. C. Brooks, B. J. Johnson, A. Pond, N. Pond and **M. M. Brashears**. 2015. Reduced Burden of *Salmonella enterica* in Bovine Subiliac Lymph Nodes Associated with Administration of a Direct-fed Microbial. *Zoonoses and Public Health* 62:599–608.
- Hanlon, K. E., **M.M. Brashears**, J.L. Vipham, L.M. Guillen, T.G. O’Quinn, J.C. Brooks, M.T. Brashears, A. Echeverry, M.M. Miller. 2015. Establishment of Salmonella and *E. coli* O157 prevalence in show goats. *Meat Sci* 101:152-143.

## 2014

- Karunasena, E., K. McMahon, D. Chung, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2014. Host response to the pathogen *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies paratuberculosis and beneficial microbes are directed through host sex-specificity. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 80(15):481-4490.
- Karunasena, E., K. McMahon, P. Kurkure, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2014. A comparison of cell mediators and serum cytokines transcript expression between male and female mice infected with *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies paratuberculosis and/or consuming probiotics. *Pathogens and Disease*, PAD-14-02-0032.
- Liao YT, Miller MF, Loneragan GH, Brooks JC, Echeverry A, Brashears MM. Non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* in U. S. retail ground beef. *J Food Prot.* 2014 Jul;77(7).

Morales, Sarahi, Sara Trojan, Alejandro Echeverry, **Mindy M. Brashears**, and M. Todd Brashears. 2014. An Evaluation of the Needs of Stakeholders within the Bahamian Food Production - Consumption Continuum. *Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education*. 21(2) Summer:22-24 doi:5191/jiaee.2014.21207

Rogers, H.B, J.C. Brooks, J.N. Martin, A. Tittor, M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2014. The impact of packaging system and temperature abuse on the shelf life characteristics of ground beef. *J. Meat Sci.* 97(1):1-10.

Tapp, N., S.E. Gragg, J. C.Brooks, M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2014. Reduction of Escherichia coli O157:H7 and Salmonella after application of various sanitizing treatments to harvesting knives. *J. Food Prot.* 76(2): 200-204.

Veluz, G.A., S. Pitchiah, **M.M. Brashears**, and C.Z. Alvarado. 2014. Efficacy of Quaternary Ammonium Compounds on Different Conveyor Chips Contaminated with Poultry Rinsate. *J. Food Prot.* 77(1):384-388.

### 2013

Capper, J.L., L. Berger, **M.M. Brashears**, H.H. Jensen, T.G. Field, J. Pettigrew, J.M. Wilkinson, and A.D. Scarfe. 2013. Animal Feed vs. Human Food: Challenges and Opportunities in Sustaining Animal Agriculture Toward 2050. *CAST Issue Paper Number 35*, September 2013.

Chancey, C., J Brooks, J. Martin, A. Echeverry, S. Jackson, L. Thompson, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2013. Survivability of Escherichia coli O157:H7 in mechanically-tenderized beef steaks subjected to lactic acid application and cooking under simulated industry conditions. *J. Food Protection*. 76(10): 1778-1783.

Chaves, B.D., M.F. Miller, M. Maradiaga, M.A. Calle, L. Thompson, S.P. Jackson, T. Jackson, L.G. Garcia, A. Echeverry, H. Ruiz, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2013. Evaluation of process control to prevent contamination of beef with non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) in U.S. export abattoirs in Honduras and Nicaragua. *Food Prot Trends*, 33(4):224–230.

Gragg, S.E., G.H. Loneragan, **M.M Brashears**, T.M. Arthur, J.M. Bosilevac, N. Kalchayanand, R. Wang, J.W. Schmidt, J.C. Brooks, S.D. Shackelford, T.L. Wheeler, T.R. Brown, T.S. Edrington, and D.M. Brichta-Harhay. 2013. Cross-sectional Study Examining Salmonella enterica Carriage in Subiliac Lymph Nodes of Cull and Feedlot Cattle at Harvest. *Foodborne Pathogens and Disease*. 10(4):368-374.

Gragg, S.E., G.H. Loneragan, K.K. Nightingale, D.M. Brichta-Harhay, H. Ruiz1, J.R. Elder, L.G. Garcia, M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, R.G. Ramírez Porras, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2013. Substantial Within-Animal Diversity of Salmonella Recovered from Lymph Nodes, Feces and Hides of Cattle at Slaughter. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* Vol. 79(15):4744-4750.



Karunasena, E., P.C. Kurkure, R.D. Lackey, K.W. McMahon, E.P. Kiernan, S. Graham, M.S. Alabady, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2013. Effects of the probiotic *Lactobacillus animalis* in murine *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies paratuberculosis infection. *BMC Microbiology*.

Narvaez-Bravo, C., M.F. Miller, T. Jackson, S. Jackson, A. Rodas-Gonzalez, K. Pond, A. Echeverry, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2013. Salmonella and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Prevalence in Cattle and on Carcasses in a Vertically Integrated Feedlot and Harvest Plant in Mexico. *J. Food Prot.*, 76(5):786–795.

Porter, H., Brashears, T., **Brashears, M.**, Irlbeck, E., Newsome, S., Winterholler-Trojan, S., Echeverry, A., McKenney, C., Loneragan, S. 2013. Determining the problems, impacts and potential solutions for the agricultural industry of Belize: A needs assessment. *J. of International Agricultural and Extension Education*. 20(2):122-124.

Salud Rubio Lozano, M., J. Fernando Martínez Bruno, R. Hernández Castro, C. Bonilla Contreras, R. Danilo Méndez Medina, J. Fernando Núñez Espinosa, A. Echeverry, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2013. Detection of *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella* and *Yersinia enterocolitica* in beef at points of sale in Mexico. *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Pecuarias*. 4 (1):107-115.

Zhang, Q., B. Yang, **M.M. Brashears**, Z. Yu, N. Lui, and Y. Li, 2013. Influence of casein hydrolysates on exopolysaccharide synthesis by *S. thermophilus* and *L. delbrueckii* ssp. *bulgaricus*. *J. Sci Food Agric*. doi: 10.1002/jsfa.6420. [Epub ahead of print]

Consortium of Food Process Validation Experts, including **M.M. Brashears**. 2013. Validation of Antimicrobial Interventions for Small and Very Small Processors: A How-to Guide to Develop and Conduct Validations. *Food Prot. Trends*. 33(2).

## 2012

**Brashears, M.M.**, A.J. Garmyn, J.C. Brooks, D. Harris, G. Loneragan, A. Echeverry, T.E. Jackson, J.M. Mehaffey, and M.F. Miller. 2012. Microbial quality of condensation in fresh and ready-to-eat processing facilities. *J. Meat Sci.* 90(3):728-732.

Brashears, M.T., J. Zavaleta, L. Lemons, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2012. Food Safety Climate of Municipal, Private and Government Regulated Slaughter Plants in Mexico. *Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education*, 19(2), 183-185.

Carroll, C.D., C.Z. Alvarado, **M.M. Brashears**, L. Thompson, and Boyce, J. 2012. Marination of Turkey Breast Fillets to Control the Growth of *Listeria Monocytogenes* and Improve Meat Quality in Deli Loaves. *J. Dairy Sci.*, 86, 150-155.

Narvaez-Bravo, C., M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, K. Pond, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2012. Salmonella and *E. coli* O157:H7 prevalence in cattle and on carcasses in a vertically integrated feedlot and harvest plant in Mexico. *J. Food Prot.* JFP-12-079R2.

Harris, D., **M.M. Brashears**, A.J. Garmyn, J.C. Brooks, and M.F. Miller. 2012. Microbiological and organoleptic characteristics of beef trim and ground beef treated with

acetic acid, lactic acid, acidified sodium chlorite, or sterile water in a simulated commercial processing environment to reduce *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella*. *Meat Sci.* 90(3):783-788.

Hoyle Parks, A.R., **M.M. Brashears**, J.N. Martin, W.D. Woerner, L.D. Thompson, and J.C. Brooks. 2012. Spoilage characteristics of ground beef with added lactic acid bacteria and rosemary oleoresin packaged in a modified atmosphere package and displayed at abusive temperatures. *J. Animal Sci.* 90(6):2054-2060.

Hoyle Parks, A.R., **M.M. Brashears**, J.N. Martin, W.D. Woerner, L.D. Thompson, and J.C. Brooks. 2012. Spoilage characteristics of traditionally packaged ground beef with added lactic acid bacteria displayed at abusive temperatures. *J. Animal Sci.*; 90(2):642-648.

Hoyle Parks, A.R., **M.M. Brashears**, J.N. Martin, W.D. Woerner, L.D. Thompson, and J.C. Brooks. 2012. Shelf life and stability traits of traditionally and modified atmosphere packaged ground beef patties treated with lactic acid bacteria, rosemary oleoresin, or both prior to retail display. *J. Meat Sci.* 90:20-27.

Loneragan, G.H., D.U. Thomson, R.M. McCarthy, H.E. Webb, A.E. Daniels, T.S. Edrington, D. J. Nisbet, S.J. Trojan, S.C. Rankin, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2012. *Salmonella* Diversity and Burden in Cows on and Culled from Dairy Farms in the Texas High Plains. *Foodborne Pathogens and Disease*. 9(6):549-555.

Vipham, J.L., **M.M. Brashears**, G.H. Loneragan, A. Echeverry, J.C. Brooks, W.E. Chaney, and M.F. Miller. 2012. *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* Baseline in Retail Ground Beef and Whole-Muscle Cuts Purchased during 2010 in the United States. *J Food Protect.* 75(12):2110-2115.

Wolf, M.J., M.F. Miller, A.R. Parks, G.H. Loneragan, A.J. Garmyn, L.D. Thompson, A. Echeverry, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2012. Validation Comparing the Effectiveness of a Lactic Acid Dip with a Lactic Acid Spray for Reducing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella*, and Non-O157 Shiga Toxigenic *Escherichia coli* on Beef Trim and Ground Beef. *J Food Protect.* 75(11):1968–1973.

Zhang, Q., Z. Yu, **M.M. Brashears**, J. Ren, Y. Li, M. Zhao, Mouming. 2012. Effect of ultrafiltered fractions from casein on lactic acid biosynthesis and enzymes activity in yoghurt starter cultures. *Intl J. of Food Science and Technology*.

Pierce SE, Bell RL, Hellberg RS, Cheng CM, Chen KS, Williams-Hill DM, Martin WB, Allard MW. Detection and Identification of *Salmonella enterica*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Shigella* spp. via PCR-electrospray ionization mass spectrometry: isolate testing and analysis of food samples. *Appl Environ Microbiol.* 2012 Dec;78(23):

## 2011

Brown, A., J.C. Brooks, E. Karunasena, A. Echeverry, A. Laury, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2011. Inhibition of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Clostridium sporogenes* in Spinach

Packaged in Modified Atmospheres After Treatment with Chlorine and Lactic Acid Bacteria. *J. Food Sci.* 76(6):427-432.

Dow, A., C. Alvarado, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2011. Reduction of Inoculated Salmonella Cocktail in Ground Turkey and Turkey Breasts Using Lactobacillus-base Intervention. *J. Poultry Sci.* 90(4):876-879.

Hoyle Parks, A.R., **M.M. Brashears**, J.N. Martin, W.D. Woerner, L.D. Thompson, and J.C. Brooks. 2011. Shelf life and stability traits of traditionally and modified atmosphere packaged ground beef patties treated with lactic acid bacteria, rosemary oleoresin, or both prior to retail display. *J. Meat Sci.* 90(1):20-27.

Rekow C.L., **M.M. Brashears**, J.C. Brooks, G.H. Loneragan, S.E. Gragg, and M.F. Miller. 2011. Implementation of targeted interventions to control Escherichia coli O157:H7 in a commercial abattoir. *J. Meat Sci.* 87(4):361-365.

Rodas-González, A., C. Narváez-Bravo, **M.M. Brashears**, H.B. Rogers, J.L. Tedford, G.O. Clark, J.C. Brooks, B.J. Johnson, R.J. Rathmann, and M.F. Miller. 2011. Evaluation of the Storage Life of Vacuum Packaged Australian beef. *J. Meat Sci.* 88(1):128-138.

Tittor, A.W., M.G. Tittor, **M.M. Brashears**, J.C. Brooks, A.J. Garmyn, and M.F. Miller. 2011. Effects of Simulated Dry and Wet Chilling and Aging of Beef Fat and Lean Tissues on the Reduction of Escherichia coli O157:H7 and Salmonella. *J. Food Prot.* 74(2):289-293.

Yanamala, S., M.F. Miller, G.H. Loneragan, S.E. Gragg, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2011. Potential for Microbial Contamination of Spinach through Feedyard Air/Dust Growing in Close Proximity to Cattle Feedyard Operations. *J. Food Safety.* 31(4):525-529.

## 2010

Echeverry, A., J.C. Brooks, M.F. Miller, J. A. Collins, G.H. Loneragan, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2010. Validation Of Lactic Acid Bacteria, Lactic Acid, And Acidified Sodium Chlorite As Decontaminating Interventions To Control Escherichia coli O157:H7 And Salmonella Typhimurium DT 104 In Mechanically Tenderized And Brine Enhanced (Non - Intact) Beef At The Purveyor. *J. Food Prot.* 73(12):2169-2179.

Gragg, S.E. and **M.M. Brashears**. 2010. Reduction of Escherichia coli O157:H7 in Fresh Spinach Using Lactic Acid Bacteria and Chlorine as a Multihurdle Intervention. *J. Food Prot.* 73(2):358-361.

Gragg, S.E. and **M.M. Brashears**. 2010. Reduction of Escherichia coli O157:H7 in Fresh Spinach Using Bovamine Meat Cultures as a Post-Harvest Intervention and its impact on Sensory Properties. *Food Prot. Trends.* 30(2):72-77.

Hughes, M.K., S. Yanamala, M. San Francisco, G.H. Loneragan, M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2010. Reduction of Multidrug-Resistant and Drug-Susceptible Salmonella in Ground Beef and Freshly Harvested Beef Briskets After Exposure to Commonly Used Industry Antimicrobial Interventions. *J Food Prot.* 73(7):1231-1237.

Randhawa, S., **M.M. Brashears**, K.W. McMahon, M. Fokar, M., and E. Karunasena. 2010. Comparison of Phenotypic and Genotypic Methods Used for the Species Identification of Lactobacillus NP51 and Development of a Strain-Specific PCR Assay. *Probiotics and Antimicrobial Proteins*. 2(4):274-283

## 2009

Echeverry, A., J.C. Brooks, M.F. Miller, J.A. Collins, G.H. Loneragan, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2009. Validation of Intervention Strategies to Control Escherichia coli O157:H7 and Salmonella Typhimurium DT 104 in Mechanically Tenderized and Brine Enhanced Beef. *J. Food Prot.* Vol. 72 (8):1616-1623.

Fluckey, W., G.H. Loneragan, R. Warner, A. Echeverry, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2009. Diversity and Susceptibility of Enterococcus Isolated from Cattle before and after Harvest. *J. Food Prot.* 72(4):766-774.

Hoyle, A.R., J.C. Brooks, L.D. Thompson, W. Palmore, T.P. Stephens, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2009. Spoilage and Safety Characteristics of Ground Beef Treated with Lactic Acid Bacteria. *J. Food Prot.* 72(11):2278-2283.

Irlbeck, E.G., C. Akers, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2009. A Content Analysis of Food Safety Measures on Television's Food Network. *Food Prot Trends*. 29(1):16-20.

Lakins, D., C.D. Alvarado, A.M. Luna, S.F. O'Keef, J.B. Boyce, L.D. Thompson, M.T. Brashears, J.C. Brooks, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2009. Comparison of Quality Attributes of Shell Eggs Subjected to Directional Microwave Technology. *J. Poultry Sci.* 88(6):1257-1265.

Laury, A., M. Alvarado, G. Nace, C. Alvarado, J.C. Brooks, A. Echeverry, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2009. Validation of a Lactic Acid and Citric Acid-Based Antimicrobial Product for the Reduction of Escherichia coli O157:H7 and Salmonella on Beef Tips and Whole Chicken Carcasses. *J. Food Prot.* 72(10):2208-2211.

Lee, M.S., S.L. Krumpelman, J.K. Apple, J.W.S. Yancey, E.B. Kegley, M.G. Johnson, **M.M. Brashears**, and T.P. Stephens. 2009. In Vitro and In Vivo Investigations of Antimicrobial Treatments to Reduce Escherichia coli O157:H7 in Cattle Manure. *Prof Anim Sci.* 25(1):49-59.

Lloyd, T., C.Z. Alvarado, **M.M. Brashears**, L.D. Thompson, S.R. McKee, and M. Berrang. 2009. Control of Listeria monocytogenes in turkey deli loaves using organic acids as formulation ingredients. *J. Poultry Sci.* 88(10):2235-2239.

## 2008

Brooks, J.C., M. Alvarado, T.P. Stephens, J.D. Kellermeier, A.W. Tittor, M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2008. Spoilage and Safety Characteristics of Ground Beef Packaged in Traditional and Modified Atmosphere Packages. *J. Food Prot.* 71(2):293-301.

- Kaur, A., P.S. Takhar, D.M. Smith, J.E. Mann, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2008. Fractional Differential Equations Based Modeling of Microbial Survival and Growth Curves: Model Development and Experimental Validation. *J. Food Sci.* 73(8):403-414.
- Kunze, D.J., G.H. Loneragan, T. M. Platt, M.F. Miller, T. E. Besser, M. Koohmaraie, T. P. Stephens, C. H. Parsons, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2008. Salmonella enterica Burden in Harvest-Ready Cattle Populations of the Texas High Plains. *Appl Environ Microbiol.* 74(2):345-351.
- Lakins, D., A. Echeverry, C.Z. Alvarado, J.C. Brooks, M.T. Brashears, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2008. Quality and Mold Growth on White Enriched Bread for Military Rations Following Directional Microwave Treatment. *J. Food Sci.* 73(3):99-103.
- Lakins, D., C.Z. Alvarado, L.D. Thompson, M.T. Brashears, J.C. Brooks, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2008. Reduction of Salmonella Enteritidis in Shell Eggs Using Directional Microwave Technology. *J. Poultry Sci.* 87(5):985-991.
- Miller, M.F., G.H. Loneragan, D.D. Harris, K.D. Adams, J.C. Brooks, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2008. Environmental Dust Exposure as a Factor Contributing to an Increase in Escherichia coli O157 and Salmonella Populations on Cattle Hides in Feedyards. *J. Food Prot.* 71(10):2078-2081.
- Platt, T.M., G.H. Loneragan, H.M. Scott, B. Norby, D.U. Thomson, M.S. Brown, S.E. Ives, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2008. Antimicrobial susceptibility of enteric bacteria recovered from feedlot cattle administered chlortetracycline in feed. *Am. J. Vet. Res.* 69(8):988-996.
- Vasconcelos, J.T., N.A. Elam, **M.M. Brashears**, and M.L. Galyean. 2008. Effects of increasing dose of live cultures of Lactobacillus acidophilus (Strain NP 51) combined with a single dose of Propionibacterium freudenreichii (Strain NP 24) on performance and carcass characteristics of finishing beef steers. *J. Animal Sci.* 86(3):756-762.
- Dowd SE, Killinger-Mann K, Brashears M, Fralick J. Evaluation of gene expression in a single antibiotic exposure-derived isolate of Salmonella enterica typhimurium 14028 possessing resistance to multiple antibiotics. *Foodborne Pathog Dis.* 2008 Apr;5(2).
- Kunze DJ, Loneragan GH, Platt TM, Miller MF, Besser TE, Koohmaraie M, Stephens T, Brashears MM. Salmonella enterica burden in harvest-ready cattle populations from the southern high plains of the United States. *Appl Environ Microbiol.* 2008 Jan;74(2):345-51.
- 2007**
- Brashears, M.M.**, J.C. Brooks, and M.F. Miller. 2007. Characterizing the Safety and Quality of Fresh Beef Cuts Subjected to Deep Muscle Marination. *J. of Animal Science*, Supplemental 1:85, 200.
- Brashears, T., Beyers, M.J., Rayfield, J., Akers, C. and Brashears, M., 2007. An exploratory educational needs assessment of E. Coli 0157: H7 knowledge held by petting zoo participants. *Journal of Southern Agricultural Education Research*, 57(1), pp.110-120.

- Brooks, J.C., **M.M. Brashears**, and M.F. Miller. 2007. Is There a Link Between Food Safety and Food Spoilage. *J. of Animal Science*, Supplemental 1:85, 137.
- Dowd S.E., K. Killinger-Mann, J. Blanton, M. San Francisco, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2007. Positive Adaptive State: Microarray Evaluation of Gene Expression in *Salmonella enterica* Typhimurium Exposed to Nalidixic Acid. *Foodborne Pathog Dis.* 4(2):187-200.
- Fluckey, W.M, G.H. Loneragan, R. Warner, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2007. Antimicrobial Drug Resistance in *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* Isolates from Cattle Feces, Hides, and Carcasses. *J. Food Prot.* 70(3):551-556.
- Lopez, A.M., G. Poullier, A.M. Luna, C.Z. Alvarado, L.D. Thompson, **M.M. Brashears**, and J.C. Brooks. 2007. Carbon Monoxide in MAP Chicken Breast Fillets and Drums as a Food Safety Intervention to Reduce Pathogen Loads and Extend Shelf-Life. *J. Anim. Sci., Suppl.* 1, 85:424.
- Lowrance, T.C., G.H. Loneragan, D.J. Kunze, T.M. Platt, S.E. Ives, H.M. Scott, B. Norby, A. Echeverry, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2007. Changes in antimicrobial susceptibility in a population of *Escherichia coli* isolated from feedlot cattle administered ceftiofur crystalline-free acid. *Am. J. Vet. Res.* 68(5):501-507.
- Mann, J.E. and **M.M. Brashears**. 2007. Contribution of Humidity to the Lethality of Surface-Attached Heat-Resistant *Salmonella* during the Thermal Processing of Cooked Ready-to-Eat Roast Beef. *J. Food Prot.* 70(3):762-765.
- Reicks, A., **M.M. Brashears**, K.D. Adams, J.C. Brooks, J.R. Blanton, and M.F. Miller. 2007. Impact of Transportation of Feedlot Cattle to the Harvest Facility on the Prevalence of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella*, and Total Aerobic Microorganisms on Hides. *J. Food Prot.* 70(1):17-21.
- Stephens, T. P., G.H. Loneragan, E. Karunasena, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2007. Reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157 and *Salmonella* in Feces and on Hides of Feedlot Cattle Using Various Doses of a Direct-Fed Microbial. *J. Food Prot.* 70(10):2386–2391.
- Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, T.W. Thompson, A. Sridhara, L.A. Branham, S. Pitchiah, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2007. Distribution of *Escherichia coli* O157 and *Salmonella* on Hide Surfaces, the Oral Cavity, and in Feces of Feedlot Cattle. *J. Food Prot.* 70(6):1346-1349.
- Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, W.E. Chaney, L.A. Branham, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2007. Development and Validation of a Most-Probable-Number Immunomagnetic Separation Methodology of Enumerating *Escherichia coli* O157 in Cattle Feces. *J. Food Prot.* 70(5):1072-1075.
- Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, L.M. Chichester, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2007. Prevalence and Enumeration of *Escherichia coli* O157 in Steers Receiving Various Strains of *Lactobacillus*-Based Direct-Fed Microbials. *J. Food Prot.* 70(5):1252-1255.

Thompson, T.W., T.P. Stephens, G.H. Loneragan, M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2007. Comparison of Rapid Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay and Immunomagnetic Separation Methods for Detection of *Escherichia coli* O157 in Fecal, Hide, Carcass, and Ground Beef Samples. *J. Food Prot.* 70(10):2230–2234.

## 2006

Carroll, C.D., C.Z. Alvarado, **M.M. Brashears**, L.D. Thompson, and J. Boyce. 2006. **Marination of Turkey Breast Fillets to Control the Growth of *Listeria Monocytogenes* and Improve Meat Quality in Deli Loaves.** *J. Poultry Sci.* 86(1): 150-155.

Cranston, J.J., J.D. Rivera, M.L. Galyean, **M.M. Brashears**, J.C. Brooks, C.E. Markham, L.J. McBeth, and C.R. Krehbiel. 2006. Effects of feeding whole cottonseed and cottonseed products on performance and carcass characteristics of finishing beef cattle. *J. Animal Sci.* 84(8):2186-2199.

Echeverry, A., G.H. Loneragan, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2006. Survival of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Bovine Feces over Time under Various Temperature Conditions. *J. Food Prot.* 69(12):2851-2855.

Harris, K., M.F. Miller, G.H. Loneragan, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2006. Validation of the Use of Organic Acids and Acidified Sodium Chlorite To Reduce *Escherichia coli* O157 and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in Beef Trim and Ground Beef in a Simulated Processing Environment. *J. Food Prot.* 69(8):1802-1807.

Mann, J.E. and **M.M. Brashears**. 2006. Validation of Time and Temperature Values as Critical Limits for the Control of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 during the Production of Fresh Ground Beef. *J. Food Prot.* 69(8):1978-1982.

Thompson, T.W., J.R. Blanton, J.E. Mann, **M.M. Brashears**, and C.Z. Alvarado. 2006. Reduction of *Campylobacter* spp on poultry carcasses using various interventions under simulated industry conditions. *Poultry Science Assoc.* 85:98 (Suppl. 1)

## 2005

Echeverry, A., G.H. Loneragan, B. A. Wagner, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2005. Effect of Intensity of Fecal Pat Sampling on Estimates of *Escherichia coli* O157 Prevalence. *Am. J. Vet. Res.* 66(12):2023-2027.

Loneragan, G.H. and **M.M. Brashears**. 2005. Effects of Using Retention-Pond Water for Dust Abatement on Performance of Feedlot Steers and Carriage of *Escherichia coli* O157 and *Salmonella* spp. *J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.* 226(8):1378-1383.

Loneragan, G.H. and **M.M. Brashears**. 2005. Pre-harvest Interventions to reduce carriage of *E. coli* O157 by harvest-ready feedlot cattle. *J. Meat Sci.* 71(1):72-78.

Smith, L., J.E. Mann, K. Harris, M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2005. Reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* in Ground Beef Using Lactic Acid Bacteria and the Impact on Sensory Properties. *J. Food Prot.* 68(8):1587-1592.

Younts-Dahl, S.M., G.D. Osborn, M.L. Galyean, J.D. Rivera, G.H. Loneragan, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2005. Reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157 in Finishing Beef Cattle by Various Doses of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* in Direct-Fed Microbials. *J. Food Prot.* 68(1):6-10.

#### 2004

Dahl, K., C. Lyford, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2004. The Cost and Effectiveness of Pre-harvest Interventions in Beef Cattle. *Texas Journal of Agriculture and Natural Resources*. 17 (2005):97-110.

Mann, J.E., L. Smith and **M.M. Brashears**. 2004. Validation of Time and Temperature Values as Critical Limits for Salmonella and Background Flora Growth During the Production of Fresh Ground and Boneless Pork Products. *J. Food Prot.* 67(7):1389-1393.

Wilderdyke, M.R., D.A. Smith, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2004. Isolation, Identification, and Selection of Lactic Acid Bacteria from Alfalfa sprouts for Competitive Inhibition of Foodborne pathogens. *J. Food Prot.* 67(5):947-951.

Younts-Dahl, S.M., M.L. Galyean, G.H. Loneragan, N. Elam, **M.M. Brashears**. 2004. Dietary Supplementation with *Lactobacillus* and *Propionibacterium*-Based Direct-Fed Microbials and Prevalence of *Escherichia coli* O157 in Beef Feedlot Cattle and on Hides at Harvest. *J. Food Prot.* 67(5):889-893.

#### 2003

**Brashears, M.M.**, M.L. Galyean, G.H. Loneragan, J.E. Mann, and K. Killinger-Mann. 2003. Prevalence of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and Performance by Beef Feedlot Cattle Given *Lactobacillus* Direct-Fed Microbials. *J. Food Prot.* 66(5):748-754.

**Brashears, M.M.**, D. Jaroni, and J. Trimble. 2003. Isolation, Selection, and Characterization of Lactic Acid Bacteria for a Competitive Exclusion Product to Reduce Shedding of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Cattle. *Journal Food Prot.* 66(3):355-363.

Elam, N.A., J.F. Gleghorn, J.D. Rivera, M.L. Galyean, P.J. Defoor, **M.M. Brashears**, and S.M. Younts-Dahl. 2003. Effects of Live Cultures of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* (Strains NP45 and NP51) and *Propionibacterium freudenreichii* on Performance, Carcass and Intestinal Characteristics, and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Shedding of Finishing Beef Steers. *J. Anim. Sci.* 81(11):2686-2698.

Fluckey, W.M., M.X. Sanchez, S.R. McKee, D. Smith, E. Pendleton, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2003. Establishment of a Microbiological Profile for an Air-Chilling Poultry Operation in the United States. *J. Food Prot.* 66(2):272-279.

#### 2002

Amezquita, A. and **M.M. Brashears**. 2002. Competitive Inhibition of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat Meat Products by Lactic Acid Bacteria. *J. Food Prot.* 65(2):316-325.



**Brashears, M.M.**, D. Burson, L. Boyle, F. Aramouni, J. Mann and M. Murphy. 2002. Development and Evaluation of an Advanced HACCP Workshop for Meat Processors. *Dairy Food Environ. Sanit.* 22(12):976-984.

Sanchez, M.X., W.M. Fluckey, **M.M. Brashears**, and S.R. McKee. 2002. Microbial Profile and Antibiotic Susceptibility of *Campylobacter* spp. and *Salmonella* spp. in Broilers Processed in Air-Chill and Immersion-Chill Environments. *J. Food Prot.* 65(6):948-956.

#### 2001

**Brashears, M.M.**, A. Amezcuita, and J. Stratton. 2001. Validation of Methods Used to Recover *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* spp. Subjected to Stress Conditions. *J. Food Prot.* 64(10):1466-1471.

**Brashears, M.M.**, D.E. Burson, E.S. Dormedy, L. Vavak, S.R. McKee, W. Fluckey, and M. Sanchez. 2001. HACCP Implementation and Validation in Small and Very Small Meat and Poultry Processing Plants in Nebraska. *Dairy Food Environ. Sanit.* 21: 20-28.

**Brashears, M.M.**, E.S. Dormedy, J.E. Mann, and D.E. Burson. 2001. Validation and Optimization of Chilling and Holding Temperature Parameters as Critical Control Points in Raw Meat and Poultry Processing Establishments. *Dairy Food Environ. Sanit.* 22(4):246-251.

Soylomez, G., D. Smith, S. Cuppett, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2001. Packaging Modifications of Alfalfa Sprouts Produced from Chlorine Treated and Untreated Seeds. *J. Food Sci.* 66(1).

Soylomez, G., Brashears, M.M., Smith, D.A. and Cuppett, S.L., 2001. Microbial quality of alfalfa seeds and sprouts after a chlorine treatment and packaging modifications. *Journal of Food Science*, 66(1).

#### 2000

Dormedy, E.S., **M.M. Brashears**, C.N. Cutter, and D.E. Burson. 2000. Validation of Acid Washes as Critical Control Points in Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Systems. *J. Food Prot.* 63(12):1676-1680.

Jaroni, D. and **M.M. Brashears**. 2000. Production of Hydrogen Peroxide by *L. lactis* as Influenced by Media Used for Propagation of Cells. *J. Food Sci.* 65(6):1033-1036.

#### 1999

**Brashears, M.M.** and W.A. Durre. 1999. **Antagonistic Action of *Lactobacillus lactis* toward *Salmonella* spp. and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 during Growth and Refrigerated Storage.** *J. Food Prot.* 62(11): 1336-1340.

**1998**

**Brashears, M.M.**, S.E. Gilliland and L.M. Buck. 1998. Bile Salt Deconjugation and Cholesterol Removal from Media by *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Lactobacillus casei*. *J. Dairy Sci.* 81(8):2103-2110.

Brashears, M.M., S.S. Reilly, and S.E. Gilliland. 1998. Antimicrobial Drug Resistance in *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 on Refrigerated Raw Chicken Meat. *J. Food Prot.* 61(2):166-170.

**1996**

Nighswonger, B.D., **M.M. Brashears**, and S.E. Gilliland. 1996. Viability of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Lactobacillus casei* in fermented milk products during refrigerated storage. *J. Dairy Sci.* 79(11):212-219.

**1995**

**Brashears, M.M.** and S.E. Gilliland. 1995. Survival During Frozen and Subsequent Refrigerated Storage of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* Cells as Influenced by Growth Phase. *J. Dairy Sci.* 78:2326-2335.

**Other Publications**

1. **Brashears, M.M.**, M.F. Miller, S. Trojan, J. Sarturi, M.T. Brashears, and C. Carpio, M. Bueso, B. Inestroza, R. Carmichael, J.R. Gomez, A. Gomez, N. Hardcastle, S. Morales, R. Paz and G. Valdivia. Turning byproducts to beef: Sustaining the cattle industry in Honduras. *AMSA MeetingPlace* June 2017.
2. Perri, L. with M. Gravely, P. Dawson and **M. Brashears** as Experts. Play It Safe. *Parents* May 2017.
3. Chaves, B.D. and **M.M. Brashears**. Mitigation of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat Meats Using Lactic Acid Bacteria. *Food Safety* Dec 2016/Jan 2017.
4. Gragg, S. and M.M. Brashears. *Hurdle Technology*. Elsevier. 2024.

**Abstracts Presented****2024**

Chavez-Velado, D.R. Brashears et al. 2024. Data-Mining *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* Quantification Loads in a Commercial Poultry Processing Facility to Establish Statistical Process Control Parameters. IAFP, 2024.

Portillo, Brashears, et al. 2024. Prevalence of Shiga-Toxin Producing *Escherichia coli* in a Meat Processing Facility in the Midwest of the United States: A Longitudinal Study. IAFP.

Martinez, Brashears, et al. 2024. Surveillance of *Salmonella* Presence in the Lairage Area of a Commercial Meat Processing Facility in the United States Using Boot Swabs. IAFP.

Orellana, Brashears, et al. 2024. Detection of *Listeria* spp. Using A Microtally® Mitt and Pre-Moist Stick sponge™ for the Environmental Sampling of Three Different Inoculated Surfaces. IAFP.

Brashears. 2024. Farm to Process; Changes in Microbial Load in Beef Production. IAFP.

Akumu, Brashears, et al. 2024. Evaluation of the in Vitro Potential of *Bacillus subtilis* and *B. velezensis* Against *Salmonella typhimurium* As Candidate Biocontrol Agents. European Symposium on Food Safety.

## 2023

Chavez-Velado, D., Betancourt-Barszcz, G.K., DeVillena, J., Brashears, M. & Sanchez Plata, M. (2023, July 16 – 19). *Bio-mapping of Salmonella levels comparison between two PCR methods of quantification and detection in a commercial poultry processing facility in the United States*. International Association for Food Protection Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Chavez-Velado, D., Vargas, D.A., Romero, I.M., Brashears, M. & Sanchez Plata, M. (2023, July 16 – 19). *Quantitative bio-mapping of Salmonella in a commercial poultry processing facility using GENE-UP® detection and GENE-UP® Quant Salmonella system to establish statistical process control parameters and implement risk-based food safety management decisions*. International Association for Food Protection Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Fashenpour, E., Vargas, D.A., Betancourt-Barszcz, G.K., Blandon, S.E., Sanchez-Plata, M., Brashears, M., Miller, M.F., Kang, Q., Trinetta, V., Vipham, J., Phebus, R. & Gragg, S. (2023, July 16 – 19). *Investigation of Salmonella prevalence and quantification in market hog lymph nodes*. International Association for Food Protection Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Jimenez, R.L., Bueno, R.L., Vargas, D.A., Casas, D.E., Brashears, M.M. & Sanchez-Plata, M.X.

(2023, June 25 – 28). *Identification and mitigation of Salmonella risk through biomapping and lymph node removal in commercial raw pork processing*. American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Jimenez, R., Lopez, R.B., Vargas, D.A., Brashears, M. & Sanchez Plata, M. (2023, July 16 – 19).

*Mitigation of Salmonella in ground pork products through the physical removal of tonsil glands and lymph nodes in pork trimmings*. International Association for Food Protection Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Jimenez, R., Lopez, R.B., Vargas, D.A., Brashears, M.M. & Sanchez-Plata, M.X. (2023,

May 3 – 5). *Quantitative bio-mapping of Salmonella and indicator organisms in modernized and conventional commercial pork processing facilities for optimizing food safety management decision making*. International Association for Food Protection Conference, Aberdeen, Scotland.

John W., Schmidt, J.W., Gragg, S.E., Sanchez-Plata, M., Fashenpour, E., Soler-Diaz, R., Brichta-Harhay, D., Arthur, T.M., Bosilevac, J.M., Kang, Q., Trinetta, V., Lubbers, B., Phebus, R., Tarpoff, A., Echeverry, A., Brashears, M., Miller, M., & Wheeler, T.L. (2023, June 25 – 28). *Identification of actionable sentinels for Salmonella contamination of beef lymph nodes and determining the impact of environmental contamination levels*. American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Lopez, R.B., Vargas, D.A., Jimenez, M., Casas, R.D., Miller, M.F., Brashears, M. & Sanchez Plata, M. (2023, July 16 – 19). *Correlation of microbial indicators and Salmonella iCounts for verification of process control in commercial pork facilities in the United States*. International Association for Food Protection Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Martinez, R., Jimenez, R.L., Brashears, M.M. & Miller, M.F. (2023, June 25 – 28). *In-plant study demonstrating the efficacy of lactic acid and ozonated water as an antimicrobial intervention in beef variety meat production*. American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Montoya, B.D., Brashears, M.M., Flatch, M.G., Dogan, O.B., Sanchez-Plata, M.X. & Miller, M.F. (2023, June 25 – 28). *Big 7 STEC detection correlation of mRBA and real-time Q-PCR on pre-harvest floors in holding pens in a commercial beef facility*. American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Montoya, B.D., Flatch, M.G., Dogan, O.B. & Brashears, M.M. (2023, July 16 – 19). *Use of Bax system polymerase chain reaction to detect Salmonella isolates from pre-harvest floors from a beef facility*. International Association for Food Protection Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Peabody, S., Brashears, M. & Sanchez-Plata, M. (2023, July 16 – 19). *Effect of different heating processes on the survival and inactivation of Salmonella Seftenberg in a cell-cultivated Salmon matrix*. International Association for Food Protection Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Peabody, S., Brashears, M. & Sanchez-Plata, M. (2023, June 25 – 28). *Growth modeling of foodborne pathogens in cell-based meat media*. American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Portillo, R., Sanchez, A., Rodriguez, K., Casas, D., Brashears, M.M. & Miller, M.F. (2023, June 25 – 28). *In-plant intervention validation study at three independent stages of a beef processing plant harvest floor*. American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Rock, N.E., Casas, D.E., Vargas, D.A., Bueno, R.L., Brashears, M.M., Miller, M.F. & Sanchez-Plata, M.X. (2023, June 25 – 28). *Use of statistical process control to continuously monitor microbial indicator concentration throughout a beef processing facility*. American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Rodriguez, K.M., Flach, M., Brashears, M.M., Sanchez-Plata, M.X. & Miller, M.F. (2023, June 25 – 28). *In-plant study to assess the efficacy of Citrilow as an antimicrobial intervention in beef sub-primals*. American Meat Science Association Reciprocal Meat Conference, St. Paul, MN, USA.

Rodriguez, K.M., Vargas, D.A., Sanchez Plata, M., Brashears, M.M. & Miller, M.F. (2023, July 16 – 19). *Reduction of pathogen surrogate bacteria using an Aqueous Ozone intervention on diced fruits and vegetables in a commercial operation*. International Association for Food Protection Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.

## 2019

Garmyn, A. J., Miller, M. F., Brashears, M. M., Hardcastle, N. & Legako, J. F., (2019) “Honduran Consumer Perception of Palatability of Enhanced and Non-Enhanced Beef from Various Finishing Diets”, *Meat and Muscle Biology* 1(3)

## 2018

Katawal, I., **M.M. Brashears**, M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, and A. Calle. 2018. Validation of intervention on Raw Ground Beef components; Cheek meat and Weasand. American Meat Science Association (AMSA) 2018 Reciprocal Meats Conference (RMC). Kansas City, MO.

Moncada, P., **M.M. Brashears**, D. Casas, B. Inestroza, A. Ramirez, M. Miller, and A. Echeverry. 2018. Variation of Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns of *Salmonella* Isolated from Honduran Meat and Poultry Products. American Meat Science Association (AMSA) 2018 Reciprocal Meats Conference (RMC). Kansas City, MO.

Smith, C.L., J.F. Legako, K.E. Hanlon, T.A. Cramer, **M.M. Brashears**, M.F. Miller, and J.C. Brooks. 2018. Impact of retail display case lighting and packaging type on microbial

growth and beef color. American Meat Science Association (AMSA) 2018 Reciprocal Meats Conference (RMC). Kansas City, MO.

Calle, A., A. Carrascal, D. Acosta and **M. Brashears**. 2018. A preliminary report: *Salmonella* sp. and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Beef Retail Channels in Colombia. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Campos, D., A. Perdomo, J. Franco, L. Jimenez., K. Nightingale, and **M. Brashears**. 2018. Reduction of Surface-Contaminated *Listeria monocytogenes* on Commercial Mozzarella Cheese By Electrostatic Spraying with the Probiotics *Lactobacillus salivarius* L28 and *Enterococcus faecium* J19. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Chen H., L.D. Thompson, **M.M. Brashears**. 2018. Combination effect of four essential oils against *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Listeria monocytogenes* in tryptic soy broth. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Englishbey, A.K., S.J. Forgey, M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry and **M.M. Brashears**. 2018. Validation of Lactic Acid Spray Applied to Beef Shoulder Clod Subprimals as an Antimicrobial Intervention in a Beef Processing Environment. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Fermin, K., D. Stull, A. Neuber, and **M. M. Brashears**. 2018. Reduction of molds in multi-grain bread by targeted directional microwave technology. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Franco, J., D. Campos, A. Perdomo, L. Jimenez., K. Nightingale, and **M. Brashears**. 2018. Reduction of *Listeria monocytogenes* on the surface of Commercial Brie Cheese by Lactic Acid Bacteria (L28 *Lactobacillus salivarius*, J19 *Enterococcus faecium*) intervention by electrostatic spraying. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Katawal, I., **M.M. Brashears**, A. English, K.K. Nightingale, and N.J. Hall. 2018. *Lactobacillus salivarius* L28 in Dog Kibble Results in Shifts in Microbial Indicators in Pet Fecal Samples after Feeding. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ramirez-Hernandez, A., A.K. Carrascal, A. Varon-Garcia, **M.M. Brashears**, and M.X. Sanchez-Plata. 2018. Enterobacteriaceae Levels and Pathogen Prevalence in Commercial Poultry Processing Facilities of Colombia. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ramirez-Hernandez, A., M. Bugarel, A. Kumar, T. Harshavardhan, **M.M. Brashears**, and M.X. Sanchez-Plata. 2018. Antimicrobial Resistant Profiles and Whole Genome Sequencing Analysis of Pathogens Isolated from Chicken Carcasses and Parts Rinsate Samples

Collected at Different Stages During Processing. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Campos, D., A. Perdomo, J. Franco, L. Jimenez., K. Nightingale, and **M. Brashears**. 2018. Reduction of *Listeria monocytogenes* on commercial cheddar cheese using electrostatic spraying application of lactic acid bacteria L28 (*Lactobacillus salivarius*) and J19 (*Enterococcus faecium*). IFT18 Institute of Food Technologists Meeting. Chicago, Illinois.

Chen H., L.D. Thompson, **M.M. Brashears**. 2018. Combination effect of four essential oils against *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Listeria monocytogenes* in tryptic soy broth. The 2018 IFT Annual Meeting.

Chen H., L. Destefano, L.D. Thompson, **M.M. Brashears** and Q. Zhong. 2018. Physical and antimicrobial properties of food-grade microemulsions having high capacity of dissolving triple essential oils of synergistic effect. The 2018 IFT Annual Meeting.

Franco, J., D. Campos, A. Perdomo, L. Jimenez., K. Nightingale, and **M. Brashears**. 2018. Inhibition of *Listeria monocytogenes* on Queso Fresco using Lactic Acid Bacteria Dipping Solution as a Biocontrol System Intervention. Institute of Food Technologists. Chicago, Illinois.

Englishbey, A.K., M.F. Miller, **M.M. Brashears**. 2018. The Efficacy of Lactic Acid as an Antimicrobial Intervention in Beef Trim Production Over Three Years of In-Plant Validation. 64<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Meat Science and Technology (ICoMST). Melbourne, Australia.

Ramirez-Hernandez, A., M. Bugarel, A. Kumar, T. Harshavardhan, **M.M. Brashears**, and M.X. Sanchez-Plata. 2018. Antimicrobial Resistant Patterns and Pathogen Whole Genome Sequence of Chicken Carcass Rinse Samples Collected During Processing. 64<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Meat Science and Technology (ICoMST). Melbourne, Australia.

Maradiaga, M., Echeverry, A., Orellana, D., Miller, M. & Brashears, M., (2018) "Antibiotic Resistance of *Salmonella* Enterica Isolated from Whole-Muscle Beef Cuts and Beef Carcasses in Mexico", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 1(2)

Gomez, A., Miller, M. F., Brashears, M., Brooks, J. C., Garmyn, A. J., Bueso, M. E., Opheim, T. L. & Carmichael, R. N., (2018) "Beef Carcass Quality as Influenced by Cattle Diet In Honduran Production Systems", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 1(2).

Ramirez, A., Sánchez, M. X. & Brashears, M., (2018) "Validation of Organic Acid Interventions in Chicken Thighs to Reduce *Salmonella* under Simulated Commercial Processing Conditions", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 1(2).

Mahalite, E. N. , Miller, M. F. , Brooks, J. C. , Brashears, M. M. & Legako, J. F. (2018) "Effects of Lactic Acid Dipped Beef Trim Stored 24 or 48 H and Chub Storage Duration on Ground Beef Color in Retail Display", *Meat and Muscle Biology*. 2(2).

- Hardcastle, N. C., Garmyn, A. J., Legako, J. F., Brashears, M. M. & Miller, M. F., (2018) "The Effects of Finishing Diet and Enhancement on the Composition and Objective Measures of Tenderness of Honduran Beef", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 2(2).
- Hanlon, K. E., Brashears, M. M., Ortega, K. A. & Miller, M. F., (2018) "Survey of Livestock Management and Protein Consumption in Rural Villages of Malawi", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 1(2).
- Opheim, T. L., Bueso, M. E., Carmichael, R. N., Trojan, S. J., Sarturi, J. O., Miller, M. F. & Brashears, M. M. (2018) "An Assessment of Local Byproducts in Beef Finishing Diets in Honduras", *Meat and Muscle Biology*. 1(2).
- Pokharel, S., Miller, M. F. & Brashears, M. M. (2018) "In-Plant Validation Study to Determine the Efficacy of Lactic Acid as an Antimicrobial Intervention on Beef Trimmings", *Meat and Muscle Biology*. 1(2).
- Orange, A. N., Brashears, M. M., Miller, M. F. & Echeverry, A., (2018) "Reduction of Salmonella in Post-Harvest Chilled Pork Head Meat Using Multiple Interventions", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 2(2).
- Hanlon, K. E., Miller, M. F. & Brashears, M. M., (2018) "Presence of Salmonella on Pork Carcasses at Different Time-Points during Harvest in The Bahamas", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 1(2).
- Forgey, S., Englishbey, A. K., Casas, D. E., Jackson, S. P., Miller, M. M. & Brashears, M., (2018) "Shiga-Toxin Producing Escherichia Coli and Salmonella Spp. Prevalence on Sheep Hides Collected Throughout the Harvesting Chain in Various Honduran Slaughter Facilities", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 2(2).
- Casas, D. E., Bueso, M., Calle, A., Huerta-Leidenz, N., Miller, M. F. & Brashears, M. M., (2018) "Changes in Presence of Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia Coli (Stec) and Salmonella Spp. in Very Small Honduran Beef Processing Plants after Personnel Training in Food Safety Practices", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 2(2)
- Katawal, I., Brashears, M. M., Echeverry, A., Calle, A. & Miller, M. F., (2018) "Validation of Interventions on Raw Ground Beef Components; Cheek Meat and Weasand", *Meat and Muscle Biology* 2(2)

## 2017

- Ayala, D., K.K. Nightingale, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. *Lactobacillus animalis* NP51 reduces *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 virulence. 63<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Meat Science and Technology (ICoMST). Cork, Ireland.
- English, A.R., A. Echeverry, J. O. Sarturi, T. L. Opheim, K. K. Nightingale, M. F. Miller and **M. M. Brashears**. 2017. Antimicrobial resistance of generic *Escherichia coli* in cattle feces as impacted by dietary supplementation with *Lactobacillus Salivarius* L28. 63<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Meat Science and Technology (ICoMST). Cork, Ireland.



- Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Frequency and AMR of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* isolated from small-ruminant fecal samples from the U.S., Australia and Bahamas. 63<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Meat Science and Technology (ICoMST). Cork, Ireland.
- Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Presence of *Salmonella* isolated from small-ruminant carcasses in the United States. Meat Industry Suppliers Association Process Expo. Chicago, Illinois.
- Ayala, D., **M.M. Brashears**, and K. K. Nightingale. 2017. Transcriptional Profiling of *Salmonella* Montevideo exposed to the probiotic *Lactobacillus animalis* NP51. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida.
- Alnajrani, M., K. Hanlon, A. English, A. Echeverry and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Comparison of Swabbing, Rinsing and Grinding as Sampling Methods for the Recovery of Indicator Microorganisms on Beef Trimmings. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida.
- Casas, D., B. Inestroza, A. Ramirez, **M.M. Brashears**, M.F. Miller and A. Echeverry P. 2017. Antimicrobial Resistance of *Salmonella* Isolated from Retail Beef and Beef Cattle during Harvesting in Honduras. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida.
- Castillo, A., D. Campos., J. Franco and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Reduction of *Salmonella* on a Meat-Based Pet Kibble Using *Lactobacillus Salivarius* (L28). International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida.
- English, A.R., A. Echeverry, J.O. Sarturi, T.L. Opheim, K.K. Nightingale, M.F. Miller and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Antimicrobial resistance patterns of generic *Escherichia coli* isolated from feedlot cattle feces after feeding direct-fed microbials in diets with and without tylosin during finishing. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida.
- Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Antimicrobial resistance patterns of *Salmonella* isolated from small-ruminant carcasses in the United States and Bahamas. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida.
- Ramirez-Hernandez, A., **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Validation of a Chicken Surface Methodology to Assess the Performance of Antimicrobial Interventions on Chicken Parts. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida.
- Fermin, K., D. Stull, A. Neuber, K. Nightingale, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Reduction of Molds and *Listeria monocytogenes* on Flour Tortilla utilizing Targeted Directional Microwave Technology. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Tampa, Florida.

Ayala, D., K.K. Nightingale, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Development of an RNA-based detection method of *Lactobacillus animalis* NP51 on feed samples. IFT17 Institute of Food Technologists Meeting. Las Vegas, Nevada.

English, A.R., A. Echeverry, J.O. Sarturi, T.L. Opheim, K.K. Nightingale, M.F. Miller and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Tetracycline resistance patterns of *Enterococcus* and *Escherichia coli* recovered from feces of beef cattle entering a feedlot system. IFT17 Institute of Food Technologists Meeting. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017 Antimicrobial resistance patterns of *Salmonella* isolated from small-ruminant retail meat samples collected in the Bahamas. IFT17 Institute of Food Technologists Meeting. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Campos, D., A. Castillo, J. Franco and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Lactic acid bacteria for the control of Salmonella in chicken fat used as pet food ingredient. IFT17 Institute of Food Technologists Meeting. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Pozuelo Bonilla, K., D. Casas, A.R. English and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Antimicrobial resistance patterns of generic *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* isolated from retail meats. IFT17 Institute of Food Technologists Meeting. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Casas, D., A. Calle, M.F. Miller and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Shiga Toxin Producing *Escherichia coli* Presence in Environmental Samples Collected from Four Different Meat Processing Plants in Honduras. RMC. College station, Texas.

English, A.R., A. Echeverry, J.O. Sarturi, T.L. Opheim, K.K. Nightingale, M.F. Miller, **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Antimicrobial resistance patterns of *Enterococcus* isolated from feedlot cattle after feeding direct-fed microbials in diets with and without tylosin. American Meat Science Association (AMSA) 2017 Reciprocal Meats Conference (RMC). College Station, Texas.

Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Presence of *Salmonella* on the carcass, hide and feces of goats and lambs from major livestock shows in Texas collected over 4 years. American Meat Science Association (AMSA) 2017 Reciprocal Meats Conference (RMC). College Station, Texas.

English, A.R., A. Echeverry, J.O. Sarturi, T.L. Opheim, M.F. Miller and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Antimicrobial Resistances of *Enterococcus* and *Escherichia coli* Recovered from Feces of Beef Cattle Entering a Feedlot System. Beef Industry Food Safety Council (BIFSCo) Beef Industry Safety Summit. Houston, TX.

Alnajrani, M., K. Hanlon, A. English, A. Echeverry and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Comparison of Swab and Grind Sampling Methods for Recovery of Indicator Microorganisms on Beef Trimmings Collected by N60 Sampling Technique. Beef Industry Food Safety Council (BIFSCo) Beef Industry Safety Summit. Houston, TX.

Castelli, E., D. Campos, K. Nightingale, A. English and **M.M. Brashears**. 2017. Effect of *Lactobacillus L28* on the Reduction of Shiga-Toxin Producing *Escherichia coli* in Cattle Manure Collected from Cattle Fed 3 Different Diets as an Environment Mitigation Treatment. Beef Industry Food Safety Council (BIFSCo) Beef Industry Safety Summit. Houston, TX.

## 2016

Arvelo-Yagua, I., A. Calle, **M.M. Brashears**, K. Hanlon, M. Sanchez-Plata, and A. English. 2016. Efficacy of *Salmonella* Detection in Ground Beef and Cilantro by Five Commercially Available Tests. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 119.

Arvelo I., Calle A., Hanlon K., Arteaga G., **Brashears M.**, Carpio C., Sanchez-Plata M. X. 2016. Comparison of five Salmonella detection methods in ground beef. Beef Industry Safety Summit, Austin, Texas.

Ayala, D., K.K. Nightingale, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Molecular Characterization of *Salmonella* Isolates from Beef Cattle Lymph Nodes and Feces by Pulsed-Field Electrophoresis. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Latin America Symposium. Cancun, Mexico.

Campos, D., A. Orange, D. Casas, and **M. Brashears**. 2016. Mechanisms of Inhibition of *Salmonella* by Lactic Acid Bacteria Cocktail (NP51, NP28, NP7, NP3). *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 255.

Castillo, A., D. Campos, J. Franco, and **M. Brashears**. 2016. Novel Lactic Acid Bacteria (L14 and L28) as a Biocontrol Agent for Inhibition of *Salmonella* in a Raw Chicken Fat Used as a Dog Food Ingredient. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 255.

English, A.R., **M.M. Brashears**, and A. Echeverry. 2016. Preliminary Assessment of Antimicrobial Resistance Profiles in Bacteria Isolated from a Shrimp Production Farm Environment in Honduras. XIII Congreso Latinoamericano de Microbiología E Higiene De Los Alimentos, Medellin, Colombia.

Franco, J., D. Campos, A. Castillo, and **M. Brashears**. 2016. Comparison of Commercially Available and Novel Lactic Acid Bacteria (L28, FS56) as Bio-Sanitizers to Inhibit *Listeria monocytogenes* on Stainless Steel Surfaces. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 250.

Hanlon, K. **M. Brashears**, K. Ortega, and M. Miller. 2016. Study of Hand-washing Methods in Malawi Utilizing Available Water and Resources to Evaluate Aerobic Plate Count, Coliforms and Generic *Escherichia coli* on Human Hands. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 248.

Hanlon, K., M. Miller, L. Guillen, A. Echeverry, E. Dormedy, B. Cemo, L. Branham, S. Sanders, and **M. Brashears**. 2016. Presence of *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* O157 and *Campylobacter* in Small Ruminants. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 186.

- Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller, L.M. Guillen, A. Echeverry, S. Sanders, L.A. Branham, K.S. Spivey, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Prevalence of *Salmonella* found on the surface of small-ruminant carcasses. *Meat Sci* 112:162.
- Hanlon, K.E., N.C. Hardcastle, A.J. Garmyn, M.E. Bueso, T.L. Opheim, **M.M. Brashears**, and M.F. Miller. 2016. Effect of cattle finishing diet and product enhancement in Honduras to improve consumer eating experience of beef cooked to the traditional well-done degree of doneness. International Association for Food Protection Latin America Conference. Cancun, Mexico.
- Inestroza, B., A. Ramirez, M.X. Sanchez-Plata, A.R. Parks, A. Echeverry, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Thermal inactivation of *Salmonella* spp. in high fat ground beef. *Meat Sci* 112:166.
- Inestroza, B., K. Nightingale, M. Bugarel, M. Miller, and **M. Brashears**. 2016. Organic Acid Treatment of Beef Trim, Combined with Acidified Sodium Chlorite to Reduce *Salmonella* Encased in Lymph Nodes during Grinding. *J Food Prot*
- Inestroza, B., English, A., Miller, M. F., **Brashears, M. M.** Antimicrobial Susceptibility of *Salmonella* Isolates from Beef Cattle in Honduras. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Latin America Symposium. Cancun, Mexico.
- Inestroza, B., M. Bueso, J. Vipham, M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, **M. M. Brashears**. Presence of *Salmonella* in Beef cattle during harvesting process in a Honduras Facility. XIII Congreso Latinoamericano de Microbiología E Higiene De Los Alimentos, Medellin, Colombia.
- Inestroza, B., M. Bueso, A. Echeverry, M. F. Miller, **M. M. Brashears**. Seguimiento a la Prevalencia de *Salmonella* en Cueros y Canales de Ganado Bovino en Plantas de Sacrificio en Mexico. XIII Congreso Latinoamericano de Microbiología E Higiene De Los Alimentos, Medellin, Colombia.
- Maradiaga, M., K.K.. Nightingale, H. den Bakker, A. Echeverry, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Phenotypic Characterization of Antimicrobial Resistance in *Salmonella enterica* Isolates Associated with Cattle at Harvest in Mexico. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 185.
- Ortega, K., G. Loneragan, P. Ortega, and **M. Brashears**. 2016. Prevalence of *Salmonella* and Antibiotic-resistant *Campylobacter* in Retail Ground Beef in the United States. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 221.
- Ortega, K.A, G.H. Loneragan, P.M. Ortega, L.S. Guillen, J.L. Vipham, J.C. Brooks, **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Baseline study for prevalence of resistant and susceptible *Campylobacter* in retail ground beef. *Meat Sci* 162: 164.
- Parks, A.R, M.F. Miller, K. Hanlon, S. Pokharel, K. Spivey, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Validation of the efficacy of 4.55% FCC 88 lactic acid and 2.5% lactic acid/acetic acid (50/50) blend on offal meats and carcass surfaces under simulated industry conditions. *Meat Sci* 112: 167.

Parks, A.R., **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Validation of pathogen destruction in dry pet foods after production and bagging under simulated industry conditions. *Meat Sci* 112: 167.

Pokharel, S, M.F. Miller, A.R. Parks, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. The prevalence of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* spp. on beef heads and variety meat. *Meat Sci* 112: 166.

Pokharel, S. B. Chaves, M. Alnajrani, and **M. Brashears**. 2016. Inhibition of *Listeria monocytogenes* on Deli Slicers and Food Contact Surfaces with Lactic Acid Bacteria. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 250.

Pokharel, S., J.C. Brooks, J.N. Martin, and **M. Brashears**. 2016. Internalization of *Salmonella enterica* Serotype Typhimurium in Beef Products as Influenced by Vacuum Marination and Antimicrobial Interventions. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 221.

Pokharel, S., M.F. Miller, A.R. Parks, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. In-plant validation study to determine the efficacy of lactic acid as an antimicrobial intervention on beef heads and variety meats. *Meat Sci* 112: 167.

Ramirez-Hernandez, A., B. Inestroza, M. Sanchez-Plata, A. Parks, A. Echeverry, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Thermal Inactivation *D* and *z*-Values of *Salmonella* in High-fat Raw Materials for Rendering. *J Food Prot* 79 (Suppl): 104.

Ramirez-Hernandez, A., Orellana, D., Maradiaga, M., **Brashears, M.** Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns of *Salmonella enterica* Isolates Recovered Beef Cattle Presented in Mexico. Latin American Congress of Microbiology and Food Hygiene COLMIC, 2016. Medellin, Colombia.

Ramirez-Hernandez, A., Inestroza, B., Orellana, D., Maradiaga, M., **Brashears, M.** Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns of *Salmonella enterica* Isolates Recovered Beef Cattle Presented in Mexico and Honduras. Latin American Symposium in Food Safety, 2016. Cancun, Mexico.

Vipham, J.L., G.H. Loneragan, L. Guillen, J.C. Brooks, B. Johnson, A. Pond, N. Pond, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2016. Reduced burden of *Salmonella enterica* in bovine subiliac lymph nodes associated with administration of a direct-fed microbial. *Meat Sci* 112: 162.

## 2015

Ayala, D., K.K. Nightingale, and M.M. Brashears. 2015. Differential Gene Expression of *Lactobacillus animalis* NP51 exposed to different Temperatures. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon.

Ayala, D., K.K. Nightingale, and M.M. Brashears. 2015. Global Transcriptome Analysis of *Lactobacillus animalis* NP51 exposed at different Temperatures. International Symposium of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE) Annual Meeting, Merida, Mexico.

Ayala, D., K.K. Nightingale, M. Miller, A. Echeverry, R. Ramirez-Porras, G. Ordaz, and M.M. Brashears. 2015. *Salmonella* Serotype Discrimination of Beef carcasses, lymph nodes and fecal isolates through Pulsed-Field Electrophoresis. International Symposium of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (ISVEE) Annual Meeting, Merida, Mexico.

Calle, M.A., Ramirez-Hernandez, A. Brashears, M. Poster presentation. Antibiotic Resistant *Escherichia coli* O157 isolated from cattle. ISVEE 14 Yucatan 2015, Merida, MX, Nov 2015.

Casas, D., Campos, D., Orange, A., Guillen, L., Zhang, Q., Brashears, MM. 2015. Mechanisms of inhibition of *Listeria monocytogenes* by lactic acid bacteria. Institute of Food Technologist (undergraduate research finalist) Chicago, IL.

Castelli, E., A. Krieg, D. L. Campos, and M. M. Brashears. 2015. Lactic acid bacteria (LAB) affect on mineral and Vitamin C content of fresh strawberries. Abstracts, International Association of Food Protection. Portland, OR.

Fermin, K., D. Stull, A. Neuber, J.C. Brooks and M.M. Brashears. Reduction of *Listeria monocytogenes* on Beef Franks utilizing Targeted Directional Microwave Technology. 2015 Beef Industry Safety Summit, March 3 to 5, Dallas, TX.

Fuentes, J.I., K.E. Hanlon, K.A. Ortega, M.M. Miller, M.M. Brashears. Microbial prevalence found in sheep fecal samples from the Lubbock, Texas area [abstract]. Presented at Texas Tech University Undergraduate Research Competition. March 31, 2015. Lubbock, TX

Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller, L.M. Guillen, A. Echeverry, S. Sanders, L. A. Branham, K.S. Spivey, M.M. Brashears. Prevalence of *Salmonella* found on the surface of small-ruminant carcasses [abstract]. In: AMSA Reciprocal Meats Conference (RMC) Proceedings: June 14-17, 2015; Lincoln, NE. Abstract nr 117.

Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller, L.M. Guillen, A. Echeverry, S. Sanders, L. A. Branham, K.S. Spivey, M.M. Brashears. Prevalence of *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* O157 found in small-ruminants within the United States [abstract]. In: International Association for Food Protection July 25-28, 2015; Portland, OR. Abstract nr 9815.

Hanlon, K.E., M.F. Miller, L.M. Guillen, A. Echeverry, K.S. Spivey, M.M. Brashears. Prevalence of *Salmonella* found in lymph nodes of sheep and goats within the United States [abstract]. In: ISVEE Veterinary Epidemiology & Economics November 3-7, 2015; Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Abstract nr P087.

Ortega, K., Loneragan, G., Vipham, J., Guillen, L., and Brashears, M. M. 2015. Prevalence of Resistant and Susceptible *Campylobacter* in Retail Ground Beef. Selected for Oral Presentation at the 2015 Annual Beef Industry Safety Summit Meeting, Dallas, TX.

Ortega, K., Loneragan, G., Ortega, P., Vipham, J., Guillen, L., Brooks, J. C., and Brashears, M. M. 2015. Baseline Study for Prevalence of Resistant and Susceptible *Campylobacter* in Retail Ground Beef. Annual Reciprocal Meat Conference, Lincoln, NB.

Ortega, K., Loneragan, G., Ortega P., Vipham, J., Guillen, L., and Brashears, M. M. 2015. Prevalence of Susceptible and Resistant *Campylobacter* in Retail Ground Beef During the spring of 2013 in Lubbock, Texas. 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection, Portland, OR.

Ortega, K., Loneragan, G., Ortega, P., Vipham, J., Guillen, L., Nightingale, K., and Brashears, M. M. 2015. Preliminary investigation of *Campylobacter* in ground beef at retail. Annual Meeting of ISVEE Mérida, Yucatán, México.

Parks, A., Mark F. Miller, Keelyn Hanlon, Siroj Pokharel, Kari Spivey, Mindy M. Brashears. 2015. Validation of the Efficacy of 4.55% FCC 88 Lactic Acid and 2.5% Lactic Acid/ Acetic Acid (50/50) Blend on Offal Meats and Carcass Surfaces Under Simulated Industry Conditions. RMC-Lincoln.

Ramirez-Hernandez, A., Inestroza, B. Sanchez-Plata, M.X., Parks, A., Echeverry, A., and Brashears, M. Determination of D- and Z- values of *Salmonella* spp. In rendered products. RMC Reciprocal Meat Science Association- Lincoln, June 2015.

Siroj Pokharel, Markus F Miller, Amy R Parks, Mindy M Brashears. 2015. The Prevalence of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* spp. on Beef Heads and Variety Meat. AMSA Reciprocal Meats Conference (RMC) Proceedings: June 14-17, 2015; Lincoln, NE.

Siroj Pokharel, Markus F Miller, Amy R Parks, Mindy M Brashears. 2015. In-plant Validation Study to Determine the Efficacy of Lactic Acid as an Antimicrobial Intervention on Beef Heads and Variety Meats. AMSA Reciprocal Meats Conference (RMC) Proceedings: June 14-17, 2015; Lincoln, NE.

## 2014

Chaves, B.D., M. Maradiaga, M.A. Calle, L. Thompson, S.P. Jackson, T. Jackson, M.F. Miller, L.G. Garcia, A. Echeverry, H. Ruiz, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2014. Evaluation of process control to prevent contamination of beef with non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in U.S. export abattoirs in Honduras and Nicaragua. *J. Meat Sci.* 96(1):489.

Guillen, L., Parks, A. Echeverry, A., Chaney, E., Miller, M., and **Brashears, M.** 2014. In-plant Validation of Pet Food Processing for the Elimination of Pathogens. *J Food Prot* 77(Suppl. A):232.

Liao, Y.T., G.H. Loneragan, J.C. Brooks, A. Echeverry, M.F. Miller, and **M.M. Brashears**. 2014. Establishment of non-O157 Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) baseline of retail ground beef in the United States. *J. Meat Sci.* 96(1):484.

Ortega, K., Vipham, J., Guillen, L., Echeverry, A., Bugarel, M., and **Brashears, M.** 2014. Prevalence of *Campylobacter* in Retail Ground Beef and Poultry during Spring in Lubbock, Texas. *J Food Prot* 77(Suppl. A):210.

Parks, A.; Echeverry, A., Fermin, K., Miller, M., **Brashears, M.** 2014. In-plant Validation of Lactic Acid Spray as an Antimicrobial Treatment for Carcasses, Subprimals, and Beef Trim. *J Food Prot* 77(Suppl. A):209

Pond, N., Guillen, L., Echeverry, E., J. Brooks, C., Loneragan, G., **Brashears, M.**, and Nightingale, K. 2014. Inhibition of Salmonella in Feces and Soil from the Feedlot Environment Treated with Lactobacillus acidophilus NP51. *J Food Prot* 77(Suppl. A):215.

Ruiz, H., M.F. Miller, L.D. Thompson, L.G. Garcia, J.C. Brooks, G.H. Loneragan, A. Echeverry, **M.M. Brashears**, and G.O. Cervera. 2014. Salmonella presence in lymph nodes and tonsils of swine harvested in Cancun and Merida, Mexico. *J. Meat Sci.* 96(1):488

Trojan, S., Brashears, T. Echeverry, A. and **Brashears, M.M.** 2014. Identification of barriers of Bahamian agriculture production: an assessment of stakeholder needs. *J. Anim. Sci.* Vol. 92, E-Suppl. 2/*J. Dairy Science*, Vol. 97. E- Suppl. 1, Page 200

Castelli, E., D. Campos, Q. Zhang and M.M. Brashears. 2014. Inhibition of Listeria Monocytogenes with a Lactic Acid Bacteria Treatment for Fresh Strawberries. Presented at the Texas Tech University Undergraduate Research Competition. April 15-17, Lubbock, TX.

Banegas, C., K. Fermin, D. Stull, B. Chaves and M.M. Brashears. 2014. Reduction of Salmonella and Escherichia Coli O157:H7 in Drinking Water using Microwave Technology. Presented at the Texas Tech University Undergraduate Research Competition. April 15-17, Lubbock, TX.

Fermin, K., D. Stull, A. Neuber, J.C. Brooks and M.M. Brashears. Reduction of *Listeria monocytogenes* on Beef Franks utilizing Targeted Directional Microwave Technology. 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection, August 3 to 6, Indianapolis, IN.

Gray, A., G.H. Loneragan, A. Parks and M.M. Brashears. 2014. Attachment and Biofilm formation of Shiga Toxin Producing Escherichia Coli (STEC) to Stainless Steel at Varying Temperatures. Presented at the Texas Tech University Undergraduate Research Competition. April 15-17, Lubbock, TX.

Perez, O., K. Fermin, L. Garcia and M.M. Brashears. 2014. Reduction of Listeria Monocytogenes on Cured and Uncured Hotdogs using 5% Lactic Acid. Presented at the Texas Tech University Undergraduate Research Competition. April 15-17, Lubbock, TX.

## 2013

Ayala, D., M.M. Brashears, K. Nightingale, M. Miller, C. Narvaez Bravo, J.C. Brooks, and A. Brandt. 2013. Pulsed-field Gel Electrophoresis Subtyping of *Salmonella* Isolates from Carcasses, Lymph Nodes, and Fecal Samples from Cattle at Slaughter Facilities in Mexico. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.



- Brashears, M.T., S. Morales, S. Trojan, S., A. Echeverry, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. An Evaluation of the Needs of Stakeholders within the Bahamian Food Production – Consumption Continuum. American Association for Agricultural Education National Research Conference, April 27-May 1, Miami, FL.
- Brenes, B., S. Discua, M.T. Brashears, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Texas Tech University – Zamorano University Internship Program: International Agricultural Cooperation through Education and Research. Proceedings of the American Association for Agricultural Education National Research Conference, April 27-May 1, Miami, FL.
- Brizuela-Obando, S., M.T. Brashears, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Faculty exchange between Texas Tech University (TTU) and Centre de Formation Fritz Lafontant (CFFL), Haiti. American Association for Agricultural Education National Research Conference, April 27-May 1, Miami, FL.
- Calle, A., M.M. Brashears, and G. Loneragan. 2013. Prediction of *Escherichia coli* O157 Load Using Immunomagnetic Separation and Regression Analysis. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Calle, A., S. Pokharel, N. Pond, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Capture efficiency of immunomagnetic separation (IMS) as applied to *E. coli* STEC O-groups. American Society for Microbiology, 113th Annual Meeting, May 18-21, 2013, Denver, CO.
- Calle, A., M. Sellers, G. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Simultaneous Immunomagnetic Separation (IMS) of Five *Escherichia coli* STEC O-groups with Subsequent Differentiation Using Modified Rainbow Agar. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Castelli, E.M., D. Campos, Q. Zhang, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Inhibition of *Listeria monocytogenes* on alfalfa sprouts using lactiguard® culture. Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Annual Meeting and Food Expo. July 13-16, Chicago, IL.
- Chaves, B., L. Garcia, A. Echeverry, M. Miller, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Prevalence of *Salmonella enterica*, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* in Beef Cuts Sold at Retail Markets in Costa Rica. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Chaves, B., L. Garcia, A. Echeverry, M. Miller, M.M. Brashears. 2013. Evaluation of Process Control to Prevent Contamination of Beef with Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in U.S. Export Abattoirs in Costa Rica. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Chaves, B.D., M. Maradiaga, M.A. Calle, L. Thompson, S.P. Jackson, T. Jackson, M.F. Miller, L.G. Garcia, A. Echeverry, H. Ruiz, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Evaluation of process control to prevent contamination of beef with non-O157 shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in U.S. export abattoirs in Honduras and Nicaragua. 66<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 23-26, 2013, Auburn, AL.

- Guillen, L., J. Vipham, A. Pond, N. Pond, G. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Mitigation of *Salmonella* in Cattle Lymph Nodes in a Commercial Feedlot Setting Using NP51, a *Lactobacillus*-based Pre-harvest Intervention. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Hawkins, A., M.T. Brashears, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Organizational Climate and Food Safety Training Change Employee Behaviors and Pathogen Loads in Non-TIF Beef Packing Plants in Mexico. American Association for Agricultural Education National Research Conference, April 27-May 1, Miami, FL.
- Jaroni, D., K. Sullivan, M.M. Brashears, T. Brashears, G. Loneragan, C. Richards, A. Pond, and M. Miller. 2013. Identification of Contamination Sources and Prevalence of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* on Small-scale Cow/Calf Operations in Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Jasti, N., W.E. Chaney, A. Echeverry, G. Loneragan, K. Nightingale, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Efficacy of Lactic Acid, Hot Water, and Acidified Sodium Chlorite for the Reduction of Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) Utilizing a Hot Carcass Model and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 as an Indicator. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Jasti, N., W.E. Chaney, A. Echeverry, G. Loneragan, K. Nightingale, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Efficacy of Lactic Acid, Hot Water, and Acidified Sodium Chlorite for the Reduction of Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) Utilizing Chilled Beef Subprimals and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 as an Indicator. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Khodammahammaid, A., Q. Zhang, D. Campos, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Antimicrobial Activity of Lactiguard® against Foodborne Pathogens in Laboratory Media. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Liao, Y. T., G. H. Loneragan, J. C. Brooks, A. Echeverry, M. F. Miller, and M. M. Brashears. 2013. Establishment of non-0157 shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia Coli* (STEC) baseline of retail ground beef in the United States. 66<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 23-26, 2013, Auburn, AL.
- Maradiaga, M., M. Miller, A. Echeverry, L. Garcia, S. Gragg, H. Ruiz, A. Calle, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Prevalence of *Salmonella* on Beef Hides and Carcasses at an Abattoir in Merida, Mexico. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.
- Maragiada, M., M. Miller, L. Thompson, A. Echeverry, L. Garcia, M.M. Brashears, S. Gragg, A. Calle, A. Pond, and S. Ward. 2013. Baseline of *Salmonella* Prevalence in Retail Beef and Produce from Honduras and Mexico. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.

Newsome, S., M.T. Brashears, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. A Case Study Analysis of Organizational Climate and Food Safety in a Federally Inspected Beef Packing Plant in Veracruz, Mexico. American Association for Agricultural Education National Research Conference, April 27-May 1, Miami, FL.

Ortega, G., M. Miller, A. Calle, K. Ortega, A. Echeverry, and M. Brashears. 2013. Prevalence of *Escherichia coli* Non-O157:H7 STEC in Beef in Mexico. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.

Ortega, G., K. Ortega, A. Calle, A. Echeverry, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Prevalence of E. coli non-O157:h7 STEC in beef in Mexico. Presented at the Texas Tech University Undergraduate Research Competition. April 22-25, 2013. Lubbock, TX.

Parks, A., K. Nightingale, J.C. Brooks, M. San Francisco, L. Thompson, G. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Attachment of Shiga Toxigenic *Escherichia coli* (STEC) on Stainless Steel Hex Nuts in Minimal and Full Nutrient Broth. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.

Parks, A.R., K.K. Nightingale, J.C. Brooks, M. San Francisco, L.D. Thompson, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. Attachment of Shiga-Toxigenic *Escherichia coli* (STEC) on Stainless Steel Hex Nuts. American Society for Microbiology, 113th Annual Meeting, May 18-21, 2013, Denver, CO.

Pond, A., M. Brashears, G. Loneragan, L. Guillen, J. J. Vipham, and N. Pond. 2013. Reduction of *Escherichia Coli* 0157 and nonO157 groups in the feces of commercial feedlot cattle using a high-dose of NP51, A *Lactobacillus*-based pre-harvest intervention. 66<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June June 23-26, 2013, Auburn, AL.

Pond, N., A. Pond, L. Guillen, J. Vipham, B. Johnson, G. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Evaluation of NP51 Feed Additive in a Research Feedlot Facility and Its Effectiveness in Reducing Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in Cattle Feces. 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 28-31, Charlotte, NC.

Ruiz, H., M.F. Miller, S. Gragg, G.H. Loneragan, L.G. Garcia, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Salmonella prevalence in beef lymph nodes and feces from cattle harvested at five Mexican abattoirs. 66<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June June 23-26, 2013, Auburn, AL.

Ruiz, H., M.F. Miller, L.D. Thompson, J.C. Brooks, G.H. Loneragan, A. Echeverry, G.O. Cervera, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Prevalence of Salmonella in Lymph Nodes of Swine Harvested in Mexico. Presented at the 2013 Beef Industry Safety Summit (BIFSCO). March 13-15, Dallas, TX.

Ruiz, H., M. F. Miller, L. D. Thompson, L. G. Garcia, C. Brooks, G. H. Loneragan, A. Echeverry, M. M. Brashears, and G. O. Cervera. 2013. *Salmonella* presence in lymph

nodes and tonsils of swine harvested in Cancun and Merida, Mexico. 66<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 23-26, 2013, Auburn, AL.

Salgado, E., M. Maradiaga, J.K. Torres, A. Calle, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Reduction of *Salmonella enteria* and *Listeria Monocytogenes* in cantaloupes and mangoes using low-cost chemical antimicrobial interventions. Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Annual Meeting and Food Expo. July 13-16, Chicago, IL.

Sunkara, V. K., J. C. Brooks, W. E. Chaney, J. N. Martin, and M. M. Brashears. 2013. Reduction of pathogenic bacteria in ground beef using a *Lactobacillus*-based biological intervention. 66<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 23-26, 2013, Auburn, AL.

Vipham, J. L., G. H. Loneragan, A. Pond, L. M. Guillen and M. M. Brashears. 2013. Reduction of *Salmonella* in cattle subiliac lymph nodes in a research feedlot setting using a *Lactobacillus Acidophilus* (NP51) based pre-harvest intervention. 66<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 23-26, 2013, Auburn, AL.

Zhang, Q., K. Nightingale, A. Khodammohammadi, and M.M. Brashears. 2013. Inactivation of *Listeria Monocytogenes* by lactic acid bacteria as influenced by culture media and temperature. Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Annual Meeting and Food Expo. July 13-16, Chicago, IL.

## 2012

Calle, A., M.M Brashears, and G.H Loneragan. 2012. Effect of Bovamine® on Prevalence and Concentration of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) on Beef Feedlot Cattle. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

Calle, M.A., G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Effect of Bovamine® on prevalence and concentration of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) on beef feedlot cattle. Detection through the real time PCR BAX® system from DuPont Qualicon. Beef Safety Summit, March 6-9, Tampa, FL.

Campos, D., Q. Zhang, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Inhibition Activity of Lactic Acid Bacteria against *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and non-O157 STECs in Ground Beef. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

**Chaney, W.E.,** Y.T. Liao, M.J. Wolf, A.R. Parks, J. Martin, A.J. Garmyn, A. Echeverry, L.D. Thompson, M.F. Miller, J.C. Brooks, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and non-O157 STEC Survival and Reduction on Intact Beef Subprimal and Non-intact Beef Trim and Steaks by Intervention and Cooking Processes. Beef Safety Summit, March 6-9, Tampa, FL.

Chaney, W.E., V.K. Sunkara, M.F. Miller, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Reduction of “Big 6” Non-O157 STEC on Chilled Beef Sub-primals Using 5% Lactic Acid. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

Gragg, S.E., G.H. Loneragan, K.K. Nightingale, J.R. Elder, H. Ruiz, M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Prevalence and Characterization of *Salmonella* Recovered from Lymph Nodes and Feces of Cattle at Harvest in Mexican Slaughter Facilities. Beef Safety Summit, March 6-9, Tampa, FL.

Gragg, S., G. Loneragan, K. Nightingale, J. Elder, H. Ruiz, M. Miller, A. Echeverry, and M. Brashears. 2012. Prevalence and Characterization of *Salmonella* Recovered from Lymph Nodes and Feces of Cattle at Harvest in Mexican Slaughter Facilities. 65<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 15-20, Fargo, ND.

Gragg, S., K. Nightingale, J. Elder, H. Ruiz, G.H. Loneragan, M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Characterization of *Salmonella* Isolated from the Lymph Nodes and Feces of Cattle Presented for Harvest at a Slaughter Facility in Mexico. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

Hartzog-Hawkins, A. Echeverry, M.T. Brashears, L. D. Thompson, M.F. Miller, J. Zamora, L. G. Garcia, C. Narvaez, L. Lemons, M. Shaw, A. Pond, H. Ruiz, M. Maradiaga, A. Calle and M.M. Brashears. Organizational Climate and Food Safety Training Change Employee Behaviors and Pathogen Loads in Non-inspected Beef Packing Plants in Mexico. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

Ison, J.J., G.H. Loneragan, G.E. Erickson, R.A. Moxley, D.R. Smith, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. A Meta-analysis of the association of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* NP51 administration with *Escherichia coli* O157 in feces and on hides of feedlot cattle. Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD), December 2-4, Chicago, IL.

Ison, S.A, G.H. Loneragan, M.M. Brashears, B. Norby, and H.M. Scott. 2012. Effect of Flavophospholipol and Environment on Antimicrobial Resistance in Beef Cattle. Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD), December 2-4, Chicago, IL.

Ison, S.A., G.H. Loneragan, B.C. Meiwes, S.J. Trojan, J.J. Ison, M.M. Brashears, H.M. Scott, P. McDermott, S. Ayers, M. Torrence. Antimicrobial susceptibility of *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* isolated from feedlot cattle: a NARMS pilot study. Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD), December 2-4, Chicago, IL.

Lemons, L., M.T. Brashears, A. Hartzog, A. Echeverry, L. Thompson, M.F. Miller, L. Garcia, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. A Comparison of Food Safety Climate at Municipal and

Private Beef Slaughter Plants in Mexico. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

Liao, Y.T., J.C. Brooks, J.N. Martin, A. Echeverry, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Spray Intervention Treatments and Cooking to reduce *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and Non-O157 STECs on the Surface of Beef Subprimals, and within Needle-Tenderized Steaks. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

Loneragan, G.H., D.U. Thomson, B.A. Butler, M.M. Brashears, R.M. McCarthy, T.M. Arthur, J.M. Bosilevac, N. Kalchayanand, J.W. Schmidt, T.L. Wheeler, A.L. Siemens, D.L. Schaefer, C.B. Rose, J.B. Ruby, T.C. Bryant, R.J. Algino, B.W. Wileman, D.T. Burkhardt, L.M. Slinden, and D.A. Emery. 2012. Vaccination to control *E. coli* O157 in cattle housed in commercial production systems. International symposium on Verotoxigenic *E. coli*, May, Amsterdam.

McCarthy, R.M., G.H. Loneragan, H. Donely, L.I. Wright, D.U. Thomson, J.B. Morgan, K.K. Nightingale, M.M. Brashears. 2012. Commercial Evaluation of an SRP-containing *Escherichia coli* Bacterial Extract Vaccine. Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD), December 2-4, Chicago, IL.

Maradiaga, M., M.F. Miller, L. Thompson, A. Calle, A. Pond, S. Ward, A. Echeverry, L. Garcia, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Baseline of *Salmonella* prevalence in retail beef and produce in Honduras and Mexico. Annual Meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), June 26-28, Las Vegas, NV.

Narvaez-Bravo, C., M.F. Miller, A. Rodas-González, A. Calle, M.T. Brashears, A. Echeverry, M. Aslam, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Virulence characterization of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 isolated from fecal samples and beef carcasses in Mexico. 58<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Meat Science and Technology, August 12-17, Montréal, Canada.

Ortega, G., A. Calle, A. Echeverry, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Detection of *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (*stx* and *eae* genes) at different concentrations of viable and nonviable cells through the BAX® System from Dupont Qualicon. Annual Meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), June 26-28, Las Vegas, NV.

Pond, A., G.H. Loneragan, M.T. Brashears, D. Jaroni, M.F. Miller, L. Lemons, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Prevalence of *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Cow/Calf Operations in Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma during the Summer and Fall Months. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

Ruiz, H., M. Miller, G. Loneragan, S. Gragg, M. Brashears, and L. Garcia. 2012. *Salmonella* Prevalence in Lymph Nodes and Feces of Cattle Presented for Harvest in Mexico. 65<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 15-20, Fargo, ND.

Tapp III, W.N., S.E. Gragg, J.C. Brooks, M.M. Brashears, and M.F. Miller. 2012. Reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 following application of various sanitizing treatments to harvesting knives. 65<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 15-20, Fargo, ND.

Ward, S., M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, L. Garcia, G.H. Loneragan, A. Pond, T. Jackson, L. Thompson, S. Jackson, J.C. Brooks, R. G. Ramirez Porras, G. Cervera, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Reduction of *Salmonella* Using Lactic Acid and Potassium Lactate on Non-federally Inspected Whole Muscle Beef Steaks Purchased in Meat Markets of Mexico. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

Webb, H.E., G.H. Loneragan, S.E. Gragg, M.M. Brashears, K.K. Nightingale, T.M. Arthur, J.M. Bosilevac, N. Kalchayanand, J.W. Schmidt, R. Wang, and D.M. Brichta-Harhay. 2012. *Salmonella enterica* in lymph nodes of cull and fed cattle at harvest. Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD), December 2-4, Chicago, IL.

Willems, A., J.C. Brooks, A. Parks, L. Jackson, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Heat Tolerance of Shiga-toxigenic *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in Laboratory Media. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

Wolf, M., M.F. Miller, A. Parks, G.H. Loneragan, A. Garmyn, L. Thompson, and M.M. Brashears. 2012. Validation of Lactic Acid Dip and Spray in Reducing *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella*, and Non-O157 Shiga-toxigenic *Escherichia coli* (STEC) on Beef Trim and Ground Beef. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 22-25, Providence, RI.

## 2011

Brown, T.R., M.M. Brashears, C. Chancey, J.N. Martin, A. Echeverry, S.P. Jackson, L.D. Thompson, and J.C. Brooks. 2011. Influence of lactic acid spray applied in a cold environment and vacuum packaged storage on the presence of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 on beef strip loins. 64<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-22, Manhattan, KS.

Chaney, W.E., G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Corn-Based Distiller's Grain and the Burden of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Commercial Feedlot Settings and Development of a Semi-quantitative Method to Estimate Concentration of *E. coli* O157:H7. Beef Safety Summit, March 2-4, Dallas, TX.

Chaney, W.E., G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. A Semi-Quantitative Methodology for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Bovine Feces. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Chaney, W.E., G.H. Loneragan, H.M. Scott, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Development of a semi-quantitative ranking scheme to estimate the concentration of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7

in bovine feces. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 4-6, Chicago, IL.

Chaney, W.E., G.H. Loneragan, R. McCarthy, M.F. Miller, B.J. Johnson, J.C. Brooks, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Effects of Corn-Based Distillers Grain (DG) Inclusion into Feeding Rations on the Burden of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Commercial Feedlot Settings. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Daniels, P., M. Miller, A. Laury, G. Loneragan, M. Brashears, and C. Brooks. 2011. Testing for the presence of *Salmonella* in dog treats through in plant validation, inoculation, and cooking. 64<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-22, Manhattan, KS.

Gragg, S.E., G.H. Loneragan, D.M. Brichta-Harhay, T.M. Arthur, J.M. Bosilevac, N. Kalchayanand, R. Wang, J.W. Schmidt, J.C. Brooks, S.D. Shackelford, T.L. Wheeler, T.R. Brown, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. *Salmonella* in Lymph Nodes of Cattle Presented for Harvest. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Laury A.M., K. Fermin, D. Stull, A. Neuber, J.C. Brooks, M.T. Brashears, C. Alvarado, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Reduction of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) on towels utilizing targeted directional microwave technology. 111<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, May 21-24, New Orleans, LA.

Laury A.M., K. Fermin, D. Stull, A. Neuber, J.C. Brooks, M.T. Brashears, C. Alvarado, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Re-distribution of Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) during the laundering of cotton towels. 111<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology, May 21-24, New Orleans, LA.

Laury A.M., K. Fermin, D. Stull, A. Neuber, J.C. Brooks, M.T. Brashears, C. Alvarado, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Reduction of *Salmonella* on jalapeño peppers, peanuts, and dry dog food utilizing targeted directional microwave technology. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Liao, Y.T., A. Echeverry, A. Ulmer, R. Lacey, D. Henroid, M. Binkley, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Evaluation of Hygienic Practices and Efficacy of an Educational Hand-washing Intervention among Restaurants in Lubbock and San Francisco. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Martin, J.N., M.M. Brashears, C. Chancey, A. Echeverry, S.P. Jackson, L.D. Thompson, and J.C. Brooks. 2010. Reduction of *E. coli* O157:H7 using lactic acid and cooking in needle tenderized beef strip steaks. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Narvaez-Bravo, C., M.F. Miller, S. Jackson, T. Jackson, A. Rodas-Gonzalez, A. Echeverry, K. Pond, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Comparison of *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157



prevalence on beef carcasses harvested in Mexico under two different production procedures under TIF regulations. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Narvaez-Bravo, C., M.F. Miller, T. Jackson, S. Jackson, A. Rodas-Gonzalez, K. Pond, A. Echeverry, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Determination of risk factors associated with Salmonella and E. coli O157 prevalence on carcasses in a Mexican slaughter plant. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Pond, A., M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, G. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Salmonella and E. coli O157:H7 prevalence on beef carcasses in a non-TIF harvest plant in the Cuautla, Mexican. 64<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-22, Manhattan, KS.

Pond, A., M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, G.H. Loneragan, M.T. Brashears, R. Ramírez Porras, G. Ordaz Cervera, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Salmonella and E. coli O157:H7 Prevalence on Beef Carcasses in a Non-TIF Harvest Plant in the Mexican Yucatan. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Pond, A., M.F. Miller, T. Jackson, A. Echeverry, E. Randazo, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Validation of Lactic Acid Interventions on the Reduction of Escherichia coli Biotype I, Coliforms and Total Aerobic Bacteria on Chilled Beef Products Processed at a commercial US slaughter facility. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Pond, A., M.F. Miller, T. Jackson, E. Randazo, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Validation of lactic acid and ASC Interventions on the reduction of Escherichia coli biotype I, coliforms and total aerobic bacteria on beef carcasses processed at a commercial U.S. slaughter facility. 64<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-22, Manhattan, KS.

Tapp, W.N. III, J.W.S. Yancey, J.K. Apple, M.J. Wolf, A.M. Laury, J.C. Brooks, M.M. Brashears, and M.F. Miller. 2011. Shelf life extension, organoleptic variation, and pathogenic reduction of noni-treated beef patties. 64<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-22, Manhattan, KS.

Vipham, J.L., M.F. Miller, G.H. Loneragan, A. Echeverry, J.C. Brooks, W.E. Chaney, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Salmonella, Campylobacter, and Putative Non-O157 Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia Coli (STEC) in Ground Beef and Whole Muscle Beef Cuts in the United States. 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 31-August 3, Milwaukee, WI.

Vipham, J.L., M.F. Miller, G.H. Loneragan, A. Echeverry, J.C. Brooks, W.E. Chaney, and M.M. Brashears. 2011. Salmonella, Campylobacter, and putative non-O157 shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (stec) prevalence in ground beef and whole muscle beef cuts at

retail in the United States. 64<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-22, Manhattan, KS.

Ward, S.N., A. Echeverry, M.M. Brashears, A. Pond, L. Garcia, T. Jackson, L. G. Thompson, K. Pond, G. Loneragan, J. C. Brooks, and M.F. Miller. 2011. Effects of lactic acid on Salmonella levels on non-federally-inspected whole muscle beef steaks purchased in meat markets of Mexico. 64<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-22, Manhattan, KS.

## 2010

Binkley, M., S. Nanivadekar, L. Thompson, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Microbial testing of the consumer environment in foodservice establishments: a pilot study. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 1-4, Anaheim, CA.

Brown, A.L., E. Karunasena, J.C. Brooks, A. Echeverry, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Inhibition of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Clostridium sporogenes* in spinach packaged in modified atmospheres after treatment with chlorine and lactic acid. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 1-4, Anaheim, CA.

Chaney, W.E., A. Echeverry, H. Ruiz, M.F. Miller, M.M. Brashears. 2010. Efficacy of Brine Chilling on the Reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* on Hot Beef Carcass Surfaces. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 1-4, Anaheim, CA.

Echeverry, A., T. Jackson, A. Laury, S. Gragg, A. Brown, W.E. Chaney, L. Yen-Te, M.F. Miller, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Validation of a hot water wash as a Carcass Intervention in a Beef Processing Plant. 63<sup>rd</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-23, Lubbock, TX.

Echeverry, A., T. Jackson, A. Laury, S. Gragg, A. Brown, W.E. Chaney, L. Yen-Te, M.F. Miller, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Validation of Lactic Acid as an Antimicrobial Intervention in a Beef Processing Plant. 63<sup>rd</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-23, Lubbock, TX.

Echeverry, A., A. Pond, C. Narváez-Bravo, M.F. Miller, T. Jackson, A. Laury, K. Pond, G.H. Loneragan, M.T. Brashears, N. Huerta-Leidenz y M.M. Brashears. 2010. Prevalence of Salmonella in Beef and Pork in Mexican Retail Markets: Its Relationship with Observations taken at Different Slaughter and supplier Plants and its Impact on Final Product Safety [*In Spanish: Prevalencia de Salmonella en Carne de Res y Cerdo en Mercados Minoristas Mexicanos: Su Relacion con Observaciones en Diferentes Plantas de Sacrificio Suplidoras e Impacto en la Inocuidad del Producto Final*]. 10th National Congress of Food Science and Technology ACTA, XVI Latin American Seminar of Food Science and Technology ALACCTA and 2nd Latin American symposium on food safety (IAFP), September 21-24, Bogota, Colombia.

Henroid, D., M. Binkley, R. Lacey, A. Ulmer, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Handwashing practices in California and Texas Quick Service and Full Service Restaurants. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual

Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 1-4, Anaheim, CA.

Laury, A., A. Echeverry, M. Alvarado, S. Gragg, A. Brown, C. Narvaez, P. Sunkara, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Electrostatically sprayed lactic acid bacteria as a pre-harvest intervention strategy for reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 on spinach plant. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 1-4, Anaheim, CA.

Narváez-Bravo, C., A. Echeverry, A. Rodas-González, M.F. Miller, T. Jackson, K. Pond, A. Laury, W.E. Chaney, M.T. Brashears, G.H. Loneragan, y M.M. Brashears. 2010. Seasonal prevalence of *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157: H7 in beef cattle and its impact on different stages of Beef in a slaughterhouse in Mexico [*In Spanish: Prevalencia Estacional De Salmonella Y E. coli O157:H7 En Ganado De Engorde Y Su Impacto En Diferentes Etapas Del Procesamiento De Carne De Res En Una Planta De Faenado En México*]. 10th National Congress of Food Science and Technology ACTA, XVI Latin American Seminar of Food Science and Technology ALACCTA and 2nd Latin American symposium on food safety (IAFP), September 21-24, Bogota, Colombia.

Narvaez-Bravo, C., M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, K. Pond, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157:H7 prevalence in cattle and on carcasses in a vertically integrated feedlot and harvest plant in Mexico. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 1-4, Anaheim, CA.

Pond, A. R., C. Gardner, W. E. Chaney, A. Echeverry, A. Laury, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Validation of beefside on the reduction of *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 on a beef carcasses calf model. 63<sup>rd</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-23, Lubbock, TX.

Pond, A., M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, G.H. Loneragan, M. Salud Rubio, A. Chavez, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. *Salmonella* and Pathogenic *E. coli* Prevalence and Generic *E. coli* Quantitative Baselines in Raw Pork and Beef at Retail Outlets in Mexico. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 1-4, Anaheim, CA.

Sunkara, P., A. Echeverry, G.H. Loneragan, M.F. Miller, A. Pond, E. Karunasena y M.M. Brashears. 2010. Antibiotic Resistance Profiles in *Salmonella* serotypes isolated from samples of Beef and Pork obtained from Retail Establishments in Mexico [*In Spanish: Perfiles De Resistencia A Los Antibióticos En Serotipos De Salmonella Aislados De Muestras De Carne De Res Y De Cerdo En Establecimientos De Venta Al Público En México*]. 10th National Congress of Food Science and Technology ACTA, XVI Latin American Seminar of Food Science and Technology ALACCTA and 2nd Latin American symposium on food safety (IAFP), September 21-24, Bogota, Colombia.

Sunkara, P., G.H. Loneragan, M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, E. Karunasena, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Antibiotic resistance profiles of cattle associated *Salmonella* serotypes in

Mexico. 63<sup>rd</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 19-23, Lubbock, TX.

Sunkara, P., G.H. Loneragan, M.F. Miller, A. Echeverry, E. Karunasena, and M.M. Brashears. 2010. Antibiotic Resistance Profiles of Cattle Associated Salmonella Serotypes in United States and Mexico. 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 1-4, Anaheim, CA.

## 2009

Chaney, W.E., E. Karunasena, A. Echeverry and M.M. Brashears. 2009. Influence of Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP) on *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Growth and Virulence: Effects on Shiga Toxin and Biofilm Production. 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 12-15, Grapevine, TX.

Chaney, W.E., E. Karunasena, M.M. Brashears. 2009. Influence of Food-Associated Modified Atmosphere (MAP) and Overwrap Packaging on *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Static Biofilm Formation in Tryptic Soy Broth (TSB) Suspension. 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of American Society for Microbiology, May 17-21, Philadelphia, PA.

Dow, A.E., C. Alvarado, P. Takhar, M.M. Brashears. 2009. Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* on contact and non-contact surfaces by electrostatic spraying of quaternary. 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 12-15, Grapevine, TX.

Gragg, S.E. and M.M. Brashears. 2009. Reduction Of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Fresh Spinach Using Chlorine And Lactic Acid Bacteria As A Multi-Hurdle Intervention. 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 12-15, Grapevine, TX.

Hughes, M.K., B.M. Hughes, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2009. Selecting Susceptible and Resistant Salmonella Serovars for Cocktail Preparation: A Case Study in Mitigating Sample Bias Using Statistical Methods. 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 12-15, Grapevine, TX.

Karunasena, E., E.P. Kiernan, P. Kurkure, R. Lackey, and M.M. Brashears. 2009. Contributors to Host Health by Probiotics in an *In vivo* Model for *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP) Associated Enteric Disease: Effects on Host Gastro-Intestinal Physiology, Immunity, and Flora. 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of American Society for Microbiology, May 17-21, Philadelphia, PA.

Laury, A.M., M.V. Alvarado, J.C. Brooks, A. Echeverry, and M.M. Brashears. 2009. Inhibition of Growth of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and Salmonella in ground beef using modified atmosphere packaging systems. 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 12-15, Grapevine, TX.

Laury, A.M. and M.M. Brashears. 2009. Survival of Lactic Acid Bacteria In Various Water Sources And Sandy Loam Soil. 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 12-15, Grapevine, TX.

Pond, A., A. Echeverry, and M.M. Brashears. 2009. Validation of dosage and shelf-life properties of beef products treated with bovine meat cultures. 62<sup>nd</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 21-24, Rogers, AR.

Yanamala, S., G.H. Loneragan, M.F. Miller and M.M. Brashears. 2009. Microbial Contamination of spinach placed in close proximity of cattle feed yard operations. 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 12-15, Grapevine, TX.

## 2008

Alvarado, M., A. Laury, C.Z. Alvarado, M.M. Brashears. 2008. Evaluation of Spraying a Lactic Acid Based Antimicrobial Product on the Reduction of Salmonella on Broiler Chickens. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.

Chaney, W.E., E. Karunasena, S.E. Gragg, M.M. Brashears. 2008. Reduction of E.coli 0157:H7 DSC in Fresh Commercial Spinach by Lactic Acid Bacteria. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.

Collins, J., J.C. Brooks, A. Echeverry, M.M. Brashears, M.F. Miller. 2008. Sensory Properties of Needle Tenderized and Injected Beef after Treatment with Intervention Strategies to Control Food-Borne Pathogens. 61<sup>st</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 22-25, Gainesville, FL.

Dow, A., C.Z. Alvarado, M.M. Brashears. 2008. Reduction of Salmonella in Ground Turkey Breasts with a Lactobacillus-Based Intervention. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.

Echeverry, A., J.C. Brooks, M.M. Brashears. 2008. Validation of Intervention Strategies to Control E.coli 0157:H7 and Typhimurium DT 104 in Injected Beef at the Retail Level. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.

Echeverry, A., J.C. Brooks, M.F. Miller, J. Collins, M.M. Brashears. 2008. Validation of Intervention Strategies to control E.coli 0157:H7 and Salmonella Typhimurium DT 104 in Beef Subjected to Mechanical Tenderization in a Simulated Packer Setting. 61<sup>st</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 22-25, Gainesville, FL.

Echeverry, A., J.C. Brooks, M.F. Miller, J. Collins, M.M. Brashears. 2008. Validation of Intervention Strategies to Control E. coli 0157:H7 and Salmonella Typhimurium DT 104 in

Beef Subjected to Blade Tenderization at the Purveyor. 61<sup>st</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 22-25, Gainesville, FL.

Gasser, S., W.E. Chaney, M. Lyte, K.W. McMahon, M. Galyean, Enusha Karunasena, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Consequences of Stress and Diet on the Endocrine and Immune Systems of Cattle and Their Effects on *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7 & *Salmonella* species and Seasonal Shedding. ASM General Meeting, June 1-5, Boston, MA.

Gragg, S.E., J.C. Brooks, A. Laury, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Effect of Lactic Acid Producing Bacteria DSC on the Sensory Characteristics of Fresh Spinach. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.

Gragg, S.E., A. Laury, M.F. Miller, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Environmental Contamination of Spinach in Close Proximity to Cattle Operations. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.

Karunasena, E., A.M. Zischkau, E.P. Kiernan, S.J. Gasser, K.W. McMahon, S.R. Takhar, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Consequences of a Direct Fed Probiotic on Natural Gut Flora in an *in vivo* study. International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Latin America, May 26-28, Campinas, Brazil.

Karunasena, E., E.P. Kiernan, A.M. Zischkau, A.M. Lopez, S.R. Takhar, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. In Vitro Growth and Virulence of *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7 in Gut, Serum, and Fecal Content of BALB/c Mice Fed Probiotics: Implications of a Diet on Host, Environment, & Pathogen. ASM 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Beneficial Microbes, October 12-16, San Diego, CA.

Kunze, D.J., T. Poole, R. Anderson, M.M. Brashears, T. E. Besser, J. B. Daniels, T. M. Platt, and G.H. Loneragan. 2008. Molecular characterization of non-type specific *E. coli* isolates recovered from cattle exposed to ceftiofur. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 7-9, Chicago, IL.

Laury, A., M. Alvarado, G. Nance, J.C. Brooks, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Evaluation of the Reduction of *E. coli* 0157:H7 and *Salmonella* spp. By Spraying a Lactic Acid- Based Antimicrobial Product on USDA Select Beef Tips. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.

Loneragan, G.H., L. R. Matthews, A. Daniels, T. Edrington, D. Nisbet, T. M. Platt, R.M. McCarthy, M. Nemecek, C. Narvaes, T. Jackson, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. *Salmonella* in Cull Dairy Cattle of the Texas high Plains. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 7-9, Chicago, IL.

McCarthy, R. M., G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. Initial investigation of the burden of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in cattle. 2008. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 7-9, Chicago, IL.

- Platt, T.M., G.H. Loneragan, L.A. Branham, M.J. Engler, D.U. Thomson, R.S. Singers, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Feedlot Production Practices and Their DSC Impact on Pre- and Post-Harvest Anti-microbial Susceptibility Patterns of *Enterococcus* spp. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.
- Pool, J., J.C. Brooks, A. Chaloupka, S. Gragg, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Small Food Business Model for Outreach Services. 61<sup>st</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 22-25, Gainesville, FL.
- Randhawa, S., M.M. Brashears, M. Fokar, and E. Karunasena. 2008. Identification of Primers to Detect Lacto-DSC bacillus acidophilus NP51 in Cattle Feces. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.
- Rekow, C., M.F. Miller, J.C. Brooks, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Comparison of Detection Methods and Their Sensitivity in Identifying and Quantifying *E.coli* 0157 Isolated from Beef Carcasses and Hides. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.
- Rekow, C., M.F. Miller, J.C. Brooks, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Changes in Microbial Indicators in Beef throughout Slaughter and Fabrication. 61<sup>st</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 22-25, Gainesville, FL.
- Rekow, C., M.F. Miller, J.C. Brooks, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Prevalence and Distribution of *Escherichia coli* 0157 on Beef Carcasses at Three Slaughter Plants. 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 3-6, Columbus, OH.
- Rogers, H., J.C. Brooks, M.F. Miller, R. Huffman, M. Carr, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Impact of Packaging and Temperature Abuse on the Shelf-Life Characteristic of Ground Beef. 61<sup>st</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 22-25, Gainesville, FL.
- Scott, H.M., B. Norby, G.H. Loneragan, M.M. Brashears, and R.B. Harvey. 2008. Critical thresholds of resistance in enteric bacteria: modeling, monitoring and managing microbial ecology to protect antimicrobials of critical importance. ASM Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance in Zoonotic Bacteria and Foodborne Pathogens. June 15-18, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Webb, H.E., G.H. Loneragan, A. Daniels, R.M. McCarthy, and M.M. Brashears. 2008. Prevalence, susceptibility, and diversity of serotypes of *Salmonella enteric* recovered from dairy cattle in the Texas High Plains. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 7-9, Chicago, IL.

## 2007

Alvarado, M., J.C. Brooks, M.F. Miller, T. Jackson, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Meat Packaging Technologies and the Safety of Ground Beef. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.

Alvarado, C.Z. and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Reduction of Salmonella in Whole and Ground Turkey Meat at Refrigerated and Elevated Temperatures using Lactic Acid Bacteria. Joint Annual Meeting of the Poultry Science Association. July, 2007, San Antonio, TX.

Brooks, J.C., M.K. Hughes, E. Karunasena, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in whole muscle beef cuts using lactic acid bacteria cultures. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.

Branham, L.A., T.M. Platt, G.H. Loneragan, M.J. Engler, D.U. Thomson, R.S. Singer, M.M. Brashears. 2007. Impact of In-Feed Antimicrobial Drug Use on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Patterns of Generic *Escherichia coli*. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.

Brashears, M.M., M.F. Miller, J.C. Brooks, D. Harris, G.H. Loneragan, A. Echeverry, T.E. Jackson, and J.M. Mehafeey. 2007. Microbial Risk Factors Associated With Condensation in Ready-To-Eat Processing Facilities. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.

Brashears, M.M., G.H. Loneragan, and M.F. Miller. 2007. Feedlot Dust as a Source of Cross-Contamination of *E. coli* O157 on Beef Feedlot Cattle Hides Prior to Shipping. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.

Clay, J.C., J.C. Brooks, M.M. Brashears, and M. Lyte. 2007. Methods for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 detection in needle tenderized red meat. 60<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), Brookings, SD.

Collins, J.A., J.C. Brooks, M.M. Brashears, and M.F. Miller. 2007. The use of lactic acid meat cultures in a commercial beef processing facility – shelf life characteristics. 60<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), Brookings, SD.

Echeverry, A., T.C. Lowrance, G.H. Loneragan, M.M. Brashears, M.S. Brown, D.J. Kunze, T.M. Platt, S.E. Ives, H.M. Scott, and B. Norby. 2007. Ceftiofur Crystalline Free Acid Administration Reduces Susceptibility of Generic *E. coli* in Cattle. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.

Echeverry, A., D.G. Lakins, C.Z. Alvarado, J.C. Brooks, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Quality and mold growth effects following microwave commercial sterilization on white enriched bread for military rations. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.



- Flowers, S.L., D. Kang, M.M. Brashears, W.R. Henning, and C.N. Cutter. 2007. Microbiological baselines validate a multi-step antimicrobial intervention for red meat carcasses processed in very small meat establishments. 60<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), Brookings, SD.
- Killinger-Mann, K.M., S.E. Dowd, J.A. Fralick, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Changes in expression of virulence mechanisms in three related *Salmonella* Typhimurium mutants with increasing multi-drug resistance properties, as determined by microarray analysis [abstract]. American Society for Microbiology 107th General Meeting, May 21-25, 2007, Toronto, Canada.
- Laury, A., G.H. Loneragan, T.M. Platt, L.A. Branham, S.E. Ives, M.J. Engler, D.U. Thomson, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Changes in Indicator Populations due to Therapeutic Use of Injectable Antibiotics in Feedlot Cattle. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.
- Lemons, L., M.T. Brashears, M. Jennings, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Educational Needs of United States cattle producers regarding pre-harvest food safety interventions. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.
- Lopez, A.M., G. Poullier, A.M. Luna, C.Z. Alvarado, L.D. Thomson, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Carbon monoxide in MAP chicken breast fillets and drums as a food safety intervention to reduce pathogen loads and extend shelf-life. Joint Annual Meeting of the Poultry Science Association. July, 2007. San Antonio, TX.
- Platt, T. M., G.H. Loneragan, L.A. Branham, M.J. Engler, D.U. Thomson, R.S. Singer, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. In-feed antimicrobial drug administration and antimicrobial susceptibility of non-type-specific *Escherichia coli*. 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 2-4, Chicago, IL.
- Rekow, C.L., M.F. Miller, J.C. Brooks, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Carcass mapping study that investigates microbial contamination throughout the slaughter and fabrication processes. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.
- Rekow, C.L., M.M. Brashears, J.C. Brooks, and M.F. Miller. 2007. Implementation of Targeted Interventions to Control *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 after beef carcass microbiological mapping in a commercial abattoir. 60<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), Brookings, SD.
- Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, E. Karunasena, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157 and *Salmonella* in Feces and on Hides of Feedlot Cattle using Various Doses of a Direct-Fed Microbial. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.
- Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, L.M. Chichester, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Prevalence and Enumeration of *Escherichia coli* O157 in Steers Receiving Various Strains of

*Lactobacillus*-Based Direct-Fed Microbials; and Validation of Naturally Infected Bovine Feces with a Most-Probable Number / Immunomagnetic Separation Technique. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.

Stephens, T.P., D.J. Kunze, G.H. Loneragan, T.M. Platt, M.F. Miller, T.E. Besser, M. Koohmaraie, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. *Salmonella* in Harvest-Ready Cattle of the Texas High Plains. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.

Tittor, A.W., M.G. Tittor, M.M. Brashears, J.C. Brooks, and M.F. Miller. 2007. Reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* using dry chilling in small processing plant environments. 60<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), Brookings, SD.

Wilderdyke, M.R., D.A. Smith, and M.M. Brashears. 2007. Evaluation of the Effect of Lactic Acid Bacterial isolates on the Growth of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella enteric* spbsp. Enteric on Alfalfa sprouts. 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 8-11, Orlando, FL.

## 2006

Branham, L.A., T.M. Platt, G.H. Loneragan, M.J. Engler, D.U. Thomson, R.S. Singer, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Feedlot Production Practices and their Impact on Pre- and Post-Harvest Antimicrobial Susceptibility Patterns of Enteric Bacteria. The 11th International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, Cairns, Australia.

Brooks, J.C., M.M. Brashears, M.F. Miller, A.R. Hoyle, J.D. Kellermeier, and J.M. Mehaffey. 2006. The Spoilage Characteristics of Ground Beef Packaged in High-Oxygen and Low-Oxygen Modified Atmosphere Packages. 59<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 18-21, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Chichester, L.M., G.H. Loneragan, D.J. Kunze, T.M. Platt, L.L. Proffit, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Oral administration of neomycin to feedlot cattle and susceptibility of *E. coli* and *Enterococcus*. The 11th International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, Cairns, Australia.

Echeverry, A., G.H. Loneragan, L.A. Branham, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Detection of *Escherichia coli* O157 in Bovine Fecal Pats by a Multiple Sampling Strategy. The 11th International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, Cairns, Australia.

Harris, D., M.M. Brashears, G.H. Loneragan, K. Adams, A. Tittor, J. Kellermeier, M. Tittor, J.C. Brooks, J. Blanton, Jr., and M.F. Miller. 2006. Increase in total numbers of *E. coli* O157 and *Salmonella* on cattle hides as a result of dust generation during cattle loading. 59<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 18-21, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

- Jennings, M., M.T. Brashears, S. Burris, K. Fritz, J. Rayfield, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Determining the educational needs of cattle producers regarding pre-harvest food safety products and techniques. The 11th International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, Cairns, Australia.
- Jennings, M., M.T. Brashears, J. Boyce, S. Burris, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. An analysis of public perception and knowledge about the danger of *E. coli* O157:H7 in petting zoos. The 11th International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, Cairns, Australia
- Killinger-Mann, K.M., S.E. Dowd, M.M. Brashears, and J.R. Blanton Jr. 2006. Microarray analysis of a lactic acid stressed, multi-drug resistant mutant of *Salmonella* Typhimurium. 59<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 18-21, Urbana-Champaign, IL.
- Killinger-Mann, K.M., B.D. San Francisco, M. Galyean, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Growth characteristics and susceptibility to 1% lactic acid of nalidixic acid resistant mutants of *Salmonella* Typhimurium developed from a single wild-type strain. International Association of Food Protection, August 13-16, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
- Killinger-Mann, K.M. and M.M. Brashears. 2006. The importance of strain validation prior to experimental use of nalidixic acid-resistant *Salmonella* Typhimurium: alterations in serotype and multi-drug resistance. International Association of Food Protection, August 13-16, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
- Kunze, D.J., G.H. Loneragan, T.M. Platt, M.F. Miller, T.E. Besser, M. Koohmaraie, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Salmonella in Harvest-Ready Cattle of the Texas High Plains. 87th Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 3-5, Chicago, IL.
- Kunze, D.J., G.H. Loneragan, H.M. Scott, M.S. Brown, G. Schuster, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Impact of injectable antimicrobial drugs on the susceptibility of enteric bacteria in feedlot cattle. The 11th International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, Cairns, Australia.
- Lakins, D., E. Echeverry, C. Alvarado, M.M. Brashears, and L. Thompson. 2006. Destruction of *Salmonella enteritidis* and quality of table shell eggs using microwave commercial sterilization PSA 85:100 (Suppl 1.) (Abstr)
- Loneragan, G.H., D.R. Ware, M.M. Brashears. 2006. A meta-analysis on the impact of dietary supplementation with *Lactobacillus acidophilus* strain NP51 on *E. coli* O157 carriage by feedlot cattle. The 11th International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, Cairns, Australia.
- Loneragan, G.H. and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Reduction of VTEC Carriage in Cattle. 6th International Symposium on Shiga Toxin (Verocytotoxin) - Producing *Escherichia coli* Infections. VTEC. October 29 to November 1, 2006, Melbourne, Australia.

Lowrance, T.C., G.H. Loneragan, M.M. Brashears, M.S. Brown, D.J. Kunze, T.M. Platt, S. Ives, H.M. Scott, and B. Norby. 2006. Ceftiofur Crystalline Free Acid Administration and Susceptibility of Generic *E. coli* Recovered from Feedlot Cattle. 87th Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 3-5, Chicago, IL.

Pitchiah, S., C.Z. Alvarado, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Comparison of poultry processing conveyor belts for susceptibility to bacterial attachment and biofilm formation. PSA 85:97 (Suppl 1.) (Abstr)

Platt, T.M., G.H. Loneragan, M.M. Brashears, D.U. Thomson, H.M. Scott, B. Norby, and D.J. Kunze. 2006. In-feed administration of chlortetracycline and antimicrobial susceptibility of enteric bacteria. 87th Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 3-5, Chicago, IL.

Platt, T.M., L.A. Branham, G.H. Loneragan, M.J. Engler, D.U. Thomson, R.S. Singer, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. In-Feed Antimicrobial Drug Use and Susceptibility of *Enterococcus* spp. and *Salmonella*. 87th Annual Meeting of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, December 3-5, Chicago, IL.

Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, T.W. Thompson, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Enumeration of *E. coli* O157 in Ground Beef, Beef Briskets, and Beef Shanks Using Most Probable Numbers (MPN) and Immunomagnetic (IMS) Techniques. The 11th International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, Cairns, Australia.

Thompson, W., T. Stephens, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2006. Comparison of detection of *E. coli* O157 using immunomagnetic separation and ELISA assays in fecal, hide and beef samples. The 11th International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, Cairns, Australia.

## 2005

Branham, L.A., M.M. Brashears, G.H. Loneragan, and A. Echeverry. 2005. Fecal Pat Sampling and Homogenation for Detection of *Escherichia coli* O157. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Baltimore, MD.

Branham, L., K. Mann, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2005. Antibiotic Resistance Patterns in *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 Isolates collected from 2001-2004. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Baltimore, MD.

Chichester, L.M., G.H. Loneragan, M.M. Brashears, T. Stephens, D.J. Kunze, T.M. Platt, L.L. Proffitt, and D. Ware. 2005. Prevalence and enumeration of *E. coli* O157 in beef steers receiving various strains of direct-fed microbials. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Baltimore, MD.

Fluckey, W.M., G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2005. Antibiotic resistance and cross contamination of *Enterococcus* isolated from live cattle, hides and carcasses. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Baltimore, MD.

Harris, D.D., M.M. Brashears, J.C. Brooks, and M.F. Miller. 2005. Application of Antimicrobial treatments in a commercial simulation to reduce *E.coli* O157:H7 and salmonella spp. In beef trim and ground beef. International Congress for Meat Science and Technology. August, Baltimore, MD.

Hoyle, A.R., L.D. Thompson, J.C. Brooks, and M.M. Brashears. 2005. Microbial Quality of Ground Beef with Added Lactic Acid Bacteria at Abusive and Refrigerated Temperatures Packaged in Modified Atmosphere and Traditional Packaging. International Congress for Meat Science and Technology. August. Baltimore, MD.

Killinger Mann, K. and M.M. Brashears. 2005. Multi-drug resistance in nalidixic acid resistant mutants of *Salmonella* Typhimurium. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Baltimore, MD.

Mann, J.E. and M.M. Brashears. 2005. Validation of Time and Temperature Values as Critical Limits for Ground Beef Processing and Storage – *Escherichia* Coli O157:H7. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Baltimore, MD.

Reicks, A, M.M. Brashears, K.D. Adams, and M.F. Miller. 2005. Impact of transportation of feedlot cattle to the harvest facility on the prevalence of *E. coli* O157:H7, salmonella spp and total aerobic microorganisms. International Congress for Meat Science and Technology, August, Baltimore, MD.

Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, T.W. Thompson, A. Sridhara, L.A. Branham, S. Pitchiah, and M.M. Brashears. 2005. Distribution of *Escherichia coli* O157 and *Salmonella* spp. on hide surfaces, the oral cavity, and feces of feedlot cattle. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Baltimore, MD.

Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, T.W. Thompson, A. Sridhara, L.A. Branham, S. Pitchiah, and M.M. Brashears. 2005. Distribution of *Escherichia coli* O157 and *Salmonella* spp. on hide surfaces, the oral cavity, and feces of feedlot cattle. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Baltimore, MD.

Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, T.W. Thompson, A. Sridhara, L.A. Branham, S. Pitchiah, and M.M. Brashears. 2005. Comparison of immunomagnetic separation (IMS) and a commercial enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for the detection of *Escherichia coli* O157 on hides of feedlot cattle. 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), Baltimore, MD.

Stephens, T.P., G.H. Loneragan, T.W. Thompson, L.A. Branham, S. Pitchiah, and M.M. Brashears. 2005. Enumeration of *Escherichia coli* O157 in cattle feces Using immunomagnetic separation combined with most probable number techniques. International Congress for Meat Science and Technology, August, Baltimore, MD.

## 2004

Dahl, K., V. Sutton, C.P. Lyford, K.R. Pond, and M.M. Brashears. 2004. Potential legal ramifications from the development of pre-harvest food safety interventions in the beef industry. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

Echeverry, A., G.H. Loneragan, M.M. Brashears, and B.W. Wagner. 2004. Non-uniform distribution of *E. coli* O157:H7 in feces and underestimation of carriage by feedlot cattle. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

Echeverry, A., G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2004. Survival of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in manure under different storage conditions. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

Fluckey, W.M., M.M. Brashears, and G.H. Loneragan. 2004. The potential for cross-contamination traced by PFGE and the antibiotic susceptibility patterns of enteric bacteria recovered from feedlot cattle and their in plant carcasses. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

Harris, K., M.F. Miller, and M.M. Brashears. 2004. Validation of multiple antimicrobial treatment to reduce *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* spp in beef trim and ground beef. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

Harris, D.D., Z.L. Vineyard, J.C. Brooks, J. Blanton, M.M. Brashears, and M.F. Miller. 2004. Effect of sampling location on the prevalence of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 on beef carcasses. 57<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 20-23, 2004, Lexington, KY.

Harris, K.A., M.M. Brashears, M.F. Miller, and K. Pond. 2004. Validation of antimicrobial treatments to reduce *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* in beef trim and ground beef. 57<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 20-23, 2004, Lexington, KY.

Killinger-Mann, K., M.M. Brashears, and L.M. Smith. 2004. Susceptibility of antibiotic resistant strains of *Salmonella* Typhimurium to lactic acid at 37°C. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

Kuntz, D.J., G.H. Loneragan, M.M. Brashears, R.S. Singer, H.M. Scott, and T. Platt. 2004. Evaluation of antimicrobial drug susceptibility in enteric bacteria of cattle in response to administration of injectable antimicrobials. Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases Annual Meeting, November, Chicago, IL.

Loneragan, G.H. and M.M. Brashears. 2004. Use of retention pond water for dust abatement in a feedlot and impact on carriage of *E. coli* O157 and *Salmonella*. To be Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases Annual Meeting. November, Chicago, IL.

Mann, J.E. and M.M. Brashears. 2004. Evaluation of a peroxyacetic acid-based antimicrobial treatment for the reduction of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 on beef trimmings. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

Vineyard, Z.L., M.R. Miller, J.C. Brooks, J.R. Blanton, and M.M. Brashears. 2004. The effects of supplementing feedlot cattle with *Ascophyllum nodosum* on the retail shelf-life of inside round steaks. 57<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), June 20-23, 2004, Lexington, KY.

Younts-Dahl, S.M., G. Osborn, M.L. Galyean, J.D. Rivera, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2004. Reduction of *E. coli* O157 in finishing beef cattle by various doses of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* in direct-fed microbials. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

Younts-Dahl, S.M., J.D. Rivera, P. Defoor, M.L. Galyean, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2004. Prevalence of *E. coli* O157 among finishing beef cattle supplemented with a *Lactobacillus*-based direct-fed microbial. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

Younts-Dahl, S.M., J.J. Cranston, J.D. Rivera, M.L. Galyean, G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2004. Effects of feeding whole cottonseed on the prevalence of *Escherichia coli* O157 among finishing beef steers. 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 8-11, Phoenix, AZ.

## 2003

Elam, N.A., J.F. Gleghorn, J.D. Rivera, M.L. Galyean, M.M. Brashears, and S.M. Younts-Dahl. 2003. Effects of live cultures of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* (Strains 45 and 747) and *Propionibacterium freudenreichii* on performance, carcass and intestinal characteristics, and *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 shedding of finishing beef steers. Annual meeting of the ASAS/ASDA. Phoenix, AZ.

Flowers, L., M. Costello, P.M. Gray, D. Kang, M.M. Brashears, A. Echeverry, J.E. Mann, W.R. Henning, E.W. Mills, and C.N. Cutter. 2003. A microbiological profile of red meat carcasses processed in very small establishments in three geographical regions of the United States. 56<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA).

Fluckey, W.M., G.H. Loneragan, and M.M. Brashears. 2003. Antibiotic Susceptibility and Cross Contamination of Enteric Bacteria Isolated from Feedlot Cattle and Their Carcasses. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 9-13. New Orleans, LA.

Loneragan, G.H. and M.M. Brashears. 2003. Avenues for pre-harvest control of *E. coli* O157 in cattle. 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, Nov. 17-21. Santiago, Chile.

Loneragan, G.H., M.M. Brashears, D.R. Ware, S. Younts-Dahl, and M.L. Galyean. 2003. Direct-fed microbials and pre-harvest risk reduction of *E. coli* O157. 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics. Nov. 17-21. Santiago, Chile.

Loneragan, G.H., M.M. Brashears, and G. Dewell. 2003. Potential for Underestimation of *E. coli* O157:H7 Prevalence in Beef Feedlot Cattle. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 9-13. New Orleans, LA.

Loneragan, G.H. and M.M. Brashears. 2003. Epidemiological Characteristics of *E. coli* O157 in cattle. 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southwest Conference on Diseases in Nature Transmissible to man. June 25-27. Amarillo, TX.

Loneragan, G.H., M.M. Brashears, and D.U. Thompson. 2003. Ecology and Feedlot Epidemiology of *E. coli* O157:H7. Presented to the Plains Nutrition Council. April 3-4. San Antonio, TX.

Mann, J.E., M.M. Brashears, and L.M. Smith. 2003. Validation of time and temperature values as critical limits for ground pork processing and storage. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 9-13. New Orleans, LA.

Mann, J.E. and M.M. Brashears. 2003. Validation of time and temperature values as critical limits for pork fabrication and storage. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 9-13. New Orleans, LA.

Mann, J.E. and M.M. Brashears. 2003. Evaluation of Hot Water Immersion for Reduction of *E. coli* O157:H7 on Beef Shanks. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 9-13. New Orleans, LA.

Smith, L., J.E. Mann, and M.M. Brashears. 2003. Reduction of *E. coli* O157:H7 in refrigerated ground beef by *Lactobacillus* spp. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 9-13. New Orleans, LA.

Stratton, J.E., R.W. Hutkins, and M.M. Brashears. 2003. Genotypic characterization by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis and antibiotic resistance of *Campylobacter* strains isolated from poultry litter. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 9-13. New Orleans, LA.

Younts-Dahl, S, M.M. Brashears, M.L. Galyean, G.H. Loneragan, and N. Elam. 2003. Prevalence of *E. coli* O157 among finishing beef cattle supplemented with live cultures of *Lactobacillus* and *Propionibacterium*. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 9-13. New Orleans, LA.



Younts-Dahl, S, M.M. Brashears, M.L. Galyean, and G.H. Loneragan. 2003. Supplementing feedlot cattle diets with whole cottonseed to decrease the prevalence of *E. coli* O157:H7. 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 9-13. New Orleans, LA.

## 2002

Baumert, R., D.E. Burson, A.T. Waylan, E.A. Boyle, F.M. Aramouni, and M.M. Brashears. 2002. The effects on one-on-one HACCP assistance offered to meat and food processors in Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota and Missouri. 55<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), July 28-30. Michigan State University

Brashears, M.M., M.L. Galyean, G.H. Loneragan, J.E. Mann and K.M. Killinger-Mann. 2002. Reduction of *E. coli* O157 in Beef Feedlot cattle with Direct-Fed Microbials. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 1-3. San Diego, CA.

Harris, M., M.M. Brashears, and D. Smith. 2002. Evaluation of the Use of Lactic Acid Bacteria to Control Pathogens on Alfalfa Sprouts. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 1-3. San Diego, CA.

Fluckey, W.M., M.M. Brashears, S.R. McKee, and M.X. Sanchez. 2002. Microbiological Profile of Air Chilled Chickens from Farm to Table. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 1-3. San Diego, CA.

Stratton, J.E., R.W. Hutkins, M.M. Brashears, A.K. Benson, L. Durso, and S.R. McKee. 2002. Genotypic Characterization and Antibiotic Resistance of *Campylobacter* Strains Collected from a Single Poultry Farm over Four Seasons. Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology.

Khaita, J.L., D.R. Smith, R.A. Moxley, S. Hinkley, L.L. Hungerford, G.E. Erickson, T.J. Klopfenstein, and M.M. Brashears. 2002. Clinical trials to test the effectiveness of cleaning pens, feeding competitive bacteria, or limiting dietary starch to reduce fecal shedding of *E. coli* O157:H7 by feedlot cattle. Presented at CRWAD. St. Louis, MO.

Phoon, N., S.R. McKee, and M.M. Brashears. 2002. Comparison Of Shelf Life And Microbial Profile Of Immersion-Chilled And Air-Chilled Broilers. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 1-3. San Diego, CA.

S.R. McKee and M.M. Brashears. 2002. HACCP for Shell Egg Packing and Processing. 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), July 1-3. San Diego, CA.

## 2001

Amezquita, A., and M.M. Brashears. 2001. Competitive exclusion of *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready to eat pork products and impact on sensory properties. Annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists. New Orleans, LA.

Brashears, M.M., J. Stratton, and A. Amezcuita. 2001. Validation of the Use of Antibiotic Resistant Strains of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* spp. for Recovery of Injured Cells Subjected to Stress Conditions Encountered During Competitive Exclusion. 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 5-8. Minneapolis, MN.

Brashears, M.M., D. Burson, L. Boyle, F. Aramouni, J. Mann, and M. Murphy. 2001. Development and Evaluation of an Advanced HACCP Workshop for Meat Processors. 54<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), Indianapolis, IN.

Brashears, M.M., S. McKee-Hensarling, D. Burson, and J. Mann. 2001. Development of Generic HACCP plans for Egg Processors. Annual meeting of the Poultry Science Association, Indianapolis, IN.

Fluckey, W.M., M.X. Sanchez, M. Tamayo, A. Aguilar, S.R. McKee, and M.M. Brashears. 2001. In Plant Microbial Profile of Air Chilled Chickens, In Nebraska. Annual meeting of the Poultry Science Association, Indianapolis, IN.

Harris, M., M.M. Brashears, and D. Smith. 2001. Isolation, Identification, And Selection Of Lactic Acid Bacteria From Alfalfa Sprouts For Competitive Inhibition of Food-borne Pathogens. 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 5-8. Minneapolis, MN.

Mann, J.E., M.M. Brashears, D.E. Burson, and E. Dormedy. 2001. Validation of CCPs in HACCP Systems in Small Meat and Poultry Processing Plants in Nebraska. 54<sup>th</sup> Reciprocal Meat Conference (RMC) of the American Meat Science Association (AMSA), Indianapolis, IN.

Peters, D.L., G. Froning, and M.M. Brashears. 2001. Evaluation of Liquid Egg White Pasteurization Guidelines for Salmonella. 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 5-8. Minneapolis, MN.

Sanchez, M.X., W. Fluckey, and M.M. Brashears, E. Wallner-Pendleton, M. Tamayo, A. Aguilar, and S. McKee. 2001. Impact of farm practices on the microbial profile of processed broilers. Annual meeting of the Poultry Science Association. Indianapolis, IN.

## 2000

Amezcuita, A., M.M. Brashears, and J. Trimble. 2000. Media Evaluation for Recovery of Injured Cells of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* spp. 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 6-9. Atlanta, GA.

Amezcuita, A. and M.M. Brashears. 2000. Isolation and Selection of Lactic Acid Bacteria from Meat Product to Inhibit Food-borne Pathogens. 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 6-9. Atlanta, GA.

Jaroni, D., J. Trimble, and M.M. Brashears. 2000. Development of a Competitive Exclusion Product to Reduce *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Cattle. 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 6-9. Atlanta, GA.

Sanchez, M.X., W. Fluckey, M.M. Brashears, and S.R. McKee. 2000. Antibiotic Resistance Pattern of *Campylobacter* spp. Isolated from Broilers Processed in Air and Immersion Chill Processing Facilities. 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), August 6-9. Atlanta, GA.

#### 1999

Berberov, E., R. Moxley, R. Roscetti, M.M. Brashears, M. Scott, and D. Francis. 1999. Effect of Probiotic Bacteria on Translocation of Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* in Gnotobiotic Piglets. 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases. November 7-9. Chicago, IL.

Sanchez, M., S. McKee, and M.M. Brashears. 1999. Microbial Quality Comparisons of Commercially Processed Air-chilled and Immersion Chilled Broilers. Annual meeting of the Poultry Science Association, August 8-12. Fayetteville, AR.

Soylemez, G., D.A. Smith, M.M. Brashears, and S.L. Cuppett. 1999. Process and packaging modifications to improve the stability and safety of alfalfa sprouts. IFT annual Meeting. July 25. Chicago, IL.

#### 1994-1997

Brashears, M.M. and S.E. Gilliland. 1994. Influence of harvest time on stability of cells of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* during frozen and subsequent refrigerated storage. Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, Dairy Foods Division. Feb. 5-9, Nashville, TN.

Brashears, M.M. and S.E. Gilliland. 1997. Antagonistic action of cells of *Lactobacillus lactis* toward *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 on refrigerated raw chicken meat. Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, Food Science and Human Nutrition Division. Feb 2-4, Birmingham, AL.

Nighswonger, B.D., M.M. Brashears, and S.E. Gilliland. 1995. Viability of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Lactobacillus casei* during storage at 7°C in fermented milk products. Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists, Dairy Foods Division. January 29–February 1, New Orleans, LA.

#### Extension Publications

Vavak, L.D. and M.M. Brashears. 1999. "Chlorine Usage in Dairy Processing Facilities" in Use of Chlorine Based Sanitizers and Disinfectants in the Food Manufacturing Industry. Food Manufacturing Coalition.

Sanchez, M.X., W. Fluckey, M.M. Brashears, and S.R. McKee. 2000. Impact of Air-Chilling on the Microbiological Safety of Poultry. University of Nebraska Poultry Report.

Nighswonger, B.D., M.M. Brashears, and S.E. Gilliland. 1995. Survival of cells of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Lactobacillus casei* during refrigerated storage in fermented milk products. Oklahoma State University Animal Science Research Report. p. 48-54.

Burson, D., M.M. Brashears, and G. Cichy. 1999. Introduction to the principles of HACCP. Department of Communication and Information Technology, Electronic Media Section, University of Nebraska. Lincoln, NE. Available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Korean.

Brashears, M.M. and D. Peters. Sampling Pork Carcasses for Process Control Verification. University of Nebraska, Cooperative Extension Division NebGuide.

Brashears, M.M. and D. Peters. Sampling Beef Carcasses for Process Control Verification. University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Division NebGuide.

Brashears, M.M. 1999. "Chlorine Usage in Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities" in Use of Chlorine Based Sanitizers and Disinfectants in the Food Manufacturing Industry. Food Manufacturing Coalition.

Brashears, M.M. 1999. Proactive Approaches to Evaluating Raw Materials. Food Testing and Analysis. Vol 5: 5. p. 22-23.

Brashears, M.M. and S.E. Gilliland. 1997. Influences of pH during growth of cholesterol from MRS by *Lactobacillus casei* and *Lactobacillus acidophilus*. Oklahoma State University Animal Science Research Report.

Brashears, M.M., S.S. Reilly, and S.E. Gilliland. 1996. Inhibitory actions of *Lactobacillus lactis* on *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 during storage at 7°C in broth and on raw chicken meat. Oklahoma State University Animal Science Research Report. p. 51-55.

Brashears, M.M. and S.E. Gilliland. 1994. Survival of late exponential phase and stationary phase cells of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* at 7°C. Oklahoma State University, Animal Science Research Report. P 34-39.

#### **M.S. Thesis**

Brashears, M.M. 1992. Influence of harvest time on stability of cells of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* during frozen and subsequent refrigerated storage. Oklahoma State University, M.S. Thesis.

#### **Ph.D. Dissertation**

Brashears, M.M. 1997. Influence of pH on bile salt deconjugation and removal of cholesterol from broth by *Lactobacillus casei* and *Lactobacillus acidophilus*. Oklahoma State University, Ph.D. Dissertation.

#### **Meatingplace Blog:**

<https://www.meatingplace.com/Industry/Blogs/Archive/?blogId=862>

(All Blogs can be accessed at the website above)

**May 27, 2025** | Can we "Just Cook It"?

**April 28, 2025** | What the Salmonella Framework Taught Us

**March 31, 2025** | Next Generation Thinking

**February 03, 2025** | Playing by the Rules

**January 06, 2025** | Washy Washy

**December 09, 2024** | 2024 Food Safety Recap

**November 11, 2024** | Logic over blame

**September 16, 2024** | Boar's Head: Where Do We Go From Here?

**August 19, 2024** | It's Not Just Salmonella or Poultry

**July 22, 2024** | Crossing commodities

**June 24, 2024** | Why the Small Things Matter

**May 27, 2024** | Why CFUs Matter

**April 03, 2024** | Healthy People 2023 Update

**March 04, 2024** | Don't throw out food safety with the bath water

**February 05, 2024** | Marked Safe from the Salmonella Charcuterie Outbreak

**January 08, 2024** | Food safety resolutions

**December 11, 2023** | 2023 Food Safety Highlights

**November 13, 2023** | Where's the data?

**October 16, 2023** | Science under attack

**September 18, 2023** | Food Safety 101

**August 21, 2023** | The Antidote

**July 24, 2023** | Cutting off the hand to spite one's disease

**June 26, 2023** | Sparkle and Shine at RMC 2023

**May 29, 2023** | Putting attribution data in perspective

**May 01, 2023** | One Food Safety Agency

**April 03, 2023** | Born in the USA

**March 06, 2023** | Dear Frank

**February 06, 2023** | Growing, but we can still do better

**January 09, 2023** | Looking forward to 2023

**December 12, 2022** | Looking back and looking ahead

**November 14, 2022** | Data gaps: Salmonella

**October 17, 2022** | Your voice matters

**September 19, 2022** | Hello E. coli (again)

**August 22, 2022** | This Salmonella approach is a “Foul”

**July 25, 2022** | Where's the beef???

**June 27, 2022** | A 'meating' of the minds

**May 30, 2022** | The Danger of Politicizing the Food Chain

**May 02, 2022** | When numbers masquerade as science

**April 04, 2022** | Sound bites or sound science?

**March 07, 2022** | BIFSCO: Celebrating 20 years dedicated to beef safety

**February 07, 2022** | Questions strengthen science

**January 10, 2022** | A resolute focus

**December 13, 2021** | A season for HOPE!

**November 15, 2021** | A warning for families gathering for Thanksgiving

**October 22, 2021** | Think pink

**September 20, 2021** | To tell the truth...

**August 23, 2021** | 'Counting on' Salmonella for safety

**July 26, 2021** | Finally, a 'silver bullet' for food safety!

**June 28, 2021** | Scientific intersections

**May 31, 2021** | The truth about line speeds!

**May 03, 2021** | In the arena...

**April 05, 2021** | The next chapter

#### Patents

1. Willis Don Stull, Jr., Andreas Alfred Neuber, David E. Sharbutt, Michel Todd Brashears, Mindy M. Brashears, Christine Alvarado and J. Chance Brooks. **Microwave disinfection and sterilization**. US Patent Number 9,592,313 B2. Date of Issue March 14, 2017.
2. Willis Don Stull, Jr., Andreas Alfred Neuber, David E. Sharbutt, Michel Todd Brashears, Mindy M. Brashears, Christine Alvarado and J. Chance Brooks. **Microwave Disinfection and Sterilization**. Publication Number US 2016/0045628 A1. Date of Publication February 18, 2016.
3. Willis Don Stull, Jr., Andreas Alfred Neuber, David E. Sharbutt, Michel Todd Brashears, Mindy M. Brashears, Christine Alvarado and J. Chance Brooks. **Microwave disinfection and sterilization**. US Patent Number 9,125,958 B2. Date of Issue September 8, 2015.
4. Mindy M. Brashears, Guy H. Loneragan, Kendra Nightingale, J. Chance Brooks. **Lactic acid and other probiotic bacteria to reduce pathogens in lymph nodes and other lymphatic tissues of livestock animals**. Publication Number US 2015/0182565 A1. Date of Publication July 2, 2015.
5. Douglas R. Ware and Mindy M. Brashears. **Compositions and methods for reducing the pathogen content of meat or meat products**. US Patent Number 8,980,611 B2. Date of Issue March 17, 2015.
6. Christine Alvarado, J. Chance Brooks, Mindy M. Brashears, Todd Brashears, Gianfranco Coccoli, Pierluigi Sapelli, Mario Piazza, Stefania Franzoni, Federico Felappi and Nicola Tolettini. **Method and System for Preserving Food**. Australian Patent Number 2008293458. Date Awarded July 31, 2014.
7. Christine Alvarado, J. Chance Brooks, Mindy M. Brashears, Todd Brashears, Gianfranco Coccoli, Pierluigi Sapelli, Mario Piazza, Stefania Franzoni, Federico Felappi and Nicola Tolettini. **Method and System for Preserving Food**. US Patent Number 8,956,673 B2. Date of Issue February 17, 2015.
8. Mindy M. Brashears, Kendra Nightingale, Guy Longeragan, and Qingli Zhang. **Quantification and Molecular Detection of Lactic Acid Bacteria in a Sample**. Publication Number US 2014/0199697 A1. Date of Publication July 17, 2014.
9. Willis Don Stull, Jr., Andreas Alfred Neuber, David E. Sharbutt, Michel Todd Brashears, Mindy M. Brashears, Christine Alvarado and J. Chance Brooks. **Microwave disinfection**

- and sterilization.** Publication Number US 2014/0184063 A1. Date of Publication July 3, 2014.
10. Willis Don Stull, Jr., Andreas Alfred Neuber, Michel Todd Brashears, Mindy Malynn Brashears, Christine Alvarado, J. Chance Brooks and David E. Sharbutt. **Microwave Disinfection and Sterilization.** US Patent Number 8,679,401 B2. Date of Issue March 25, 2014.
  11. Alvarado, C., J.C. Brooks and M.M. Brashears. **Method and System for Preserving Food.** Japanese Patent Number 5391199. Date of Issue October 18, 2013.
  12. Douglas R. Ware and Mindy M. Brashears. **Compositions and methods for reducing the pathogen content of meat or meat products.** US Patent Number 8,496,925 B2. Date of Issue July 30, 2013.
  13. Douglas R. Ware and Mindy M. Brashears. **Inhibition of Pathogenic Growth on Plant Materials Using Lactic Acid Producing Microorganisms.** Publication Number US 2012/0201795 A1. Date of Publication August 9, 2012.
  14. J. Chance Brooks, Mindy M. Brashears, and Gary L. Nace. **Laboratory Method and Experimental Specimen for Validating the Efficacy of Antimicrobial Agents on Bovine Carcasses.** Publication Number US 2012/0052527 A1. Date of Publication March 1, 2012.
  15. Willis Don Stull, Jr., Andreas Alfred Neuber, Michel Todd Brashears, Mindy Malynn Brashears, Christine Alvarado, J. Chance Brooks and David E. Sharbutt. **Microwave Disinfection and Sterilization.** Publication Number US 2011/0014331 A1. Date of Publication January 20, 2011.
  16. Jeff Hudnall and Mindy Malynn Brashears. **Antimicrobial Wax Composition for Wax Therapy.** Publication Number US 2008/0107751 A1. Date of Publication May 8, 2008.
  17. Mindy M. Brashears and Divya Jaroni, 2003. **Lactic acid bacteria cultures that inhibit food-borne pathogens.** US Patent Number 7,323,166 B2. Date of Issue January 29, 2008.
  18. Douglas R. Ware and Mindy M. Brashears. **Compositions and methods for reducing the pathogen content of meat and meat products.** US Patent Number 7,291,326 B2. Date of Issue November 6, 2007.
  19. Douglas, R. Ware and Mindy M. Brashears. **Reduction of pathogen in plant materials using lactic acid producing microorganisms.** International Patent Number WO 2011/139904 A3. Date of Publication November 10, 2011.
  20. Brashears, M.M., Campos, D., Nightingale, K., Loneragan, G. and Miller, M.F., Texas Tech University System, 2020. *Method and Composition for Reducing Pathogens in Rendered Food Products Using Lactic Acid Bacteria.* U.S. Patent Application 16/310,981.



21. [J. Chance Brooks](#), [Mindy M. Brashears](#), [Gary L. Nace](#). **Laboratory method and experimental specimen for validating the efficacy of antimicrobial agents on bovine carcasses.** Provisional application No. 61/402.263, filed on Aug. 26, 2010.
22. [Mindy M. Brashears](#), [Kendra Nightingale](#), and [David CAMPOS](#). **Reduction of pathogens and other bacteria in food and feed products utilizing a multiple inhibition system with lactic acid bacteria.** International Publication Number WO 2019/113217 A1. June 13, 2019.
23. [Mindy M. Brashears](#), [Kendra Nightingale](#), [Guy Loneragan](#) and [Qingli Zhang](#). **Quantification and Molecular Detection of Lactic Acid Bacteria in a Sample.** Pub. No.: US 2014/0199697 A1. July 17, 2014.
24. [Guy Loneragan](#), [Mindy M. Brashears](#), [Kendra Nightingale](#), [Marie Bugarel](#). **Molecular Discrimination of Regulated and Non-Regulated Salmonella Serotypes.** Pub. No. : US 2017 / 0268044 A1. Publication Date: September 21, 2017.
25. [Mindy M. Brashears](#), [David Campos](#), [Kendra Nightingale](#), [Guy Loneragan](#), [Markus F. Miller](#). **Method and Composition for Reducing Pathogens in Pet Food Using Lactic Acid Bacteria.** Pub. No. : US 2020/0236968 A1. July 30, 2020.
26. [Marie Bugarel](#), [Kendra Nightingale](#), [Guy Loneragan](#), [Mindy M. Brashears](#). **Serotype Discrimination Biomarkers to Distinguish Infantis from Heidelberg and Newport from Hadar.** Pub. No. : US 2018 / 0094300 A1. Pub. Date : April 5 , 2018

#### Miscellaneous Publications

The American people deserve a single food safety agency. Food Safety News. September 11, 2023. Frank Yiannas and Mindy Brashears

Pork and Prejudice: How the Industry's Science-Driven Approach Outshines Salmonella Standards in the Pursuit of Improving Public Health. ade Fluckey, Ph.D., Thomas Boyd, Mindy Brashears Ph.D Published October 6, 2023. Food-safety.com.

USDA, FDA Strengthen U.S. Food Supply Chain Protections During COVID-19 Pandemic. Mindy Brashears and Frank Yiannas. USDA Press Release. May 19, 2020.

Effect of direct-fed microbial on Enterococci antibiotic resistance. Mindy Brashears et al. National Provisioner. January 19, 2018.

Don't short-shrift cleaning programs. Amy Parks and Mindy Brashears. National Provisioner. July 3, 2015.

Why we're modernizing slaughter inspection. Mindy Brashears. Food Safety News. September 19, 2019.

Parks, A.R., Reduction of Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* Attached to Stainless Steel. Food-safety.com.

Brashears, M.M. and Guillen, L.M., 2014. Direct-Fed Microbials as Preharvest Interventions in Cattle Production. *Food Safety Magazine*.

#### **Pod Casts and Webinars:**

Communicating Food Safety: Mindy Brashears

September 20, 2024

So, You Talk to Cows? A Podcast for Agricultural Communicators

Link:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2134477/episodes/15788963-communicating-food-safety-mindy-brashears>

Food Safety in Focus with Mindy Brashears

<https://soundcloud.com/ahfoodchain-chats/food-safety-in-focus-with-dr-mindy-brashears>

Securing the food safety future w/Mindy Brashears, Ph.D. Ep. 66

MeatsPad

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhaRfPB\\_oKE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhaRfPB_oKE)

Around Town | Dr. Mindy Brashears

By [Nick Bergfeld](#) and [Chuck Luck](#)

Link: <https://radio.kttz.org/podcast/around-town/2022-11-18/around-town-dr-mindy-b>

Humanitarian Efforts in Meat Science

MeatsPad w/Mindy Brashears, Ph. D. Ep. 66

Link: <https://www.meatpad.com/episode/45632d13-1955-4ee2-ba3e-1cbb133fcadc>

From academia to DC, and back again

Meat and Poultry Magazine

Link: <https://www.meatpoultry.com/articles/25530-podcast-from-academia-to-dc-and-back-again>

Food Security is National Security:

Dr. Mindy Brashears Featured On New Episode of Growing Our Future Podcast The National FFA Organization

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1918159741724922>

Food Safety: When Regulatory Jurisdictional Battles and Public Safety Collide

The Federalist Society

Mindy Brashears, Stephen Ostroff, Stephen Alexander Vaden, Frank Yiannas

<https://fedsoc.org/contributors/mindy-brashears/commentary>

Food Safety Matters Podcast Ep. 145. Live from the 2023 Food Safety Summit

Link: [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/food-safety-magazine\\_food-safety-matters-podcast-ep-145-live-activity-7066744778134061056-95UD/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/food-safety-magazine_food-safety-matters-podcast-ep-145-live-activity-7066744778134061056-95UD/)

Working Together to Achieve the Whole Food Safety Picture - Mindy Brashears (2021)

Poultry Science Association

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AAeEt5wBC4>

Women's History Month 2022: Mindy Brashears

Texas Tech University

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpijIWfoehk>

**(B) List any formal speeches or presentations you have delivered during the last 10 years relevant to the position to which you have been nominated, and all speeches/presentations you have delivered related to any topic for the last five years. Include any testimony to Congress or any other legislative or administrative body. Include a link to each speech when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all known required speeches even if no copy is available to provide.**

#### **2025 Invited Presentations**

IPPE-NCC National Processors Meeting – January, 2025

Scientific Perspectives for *Salmonella* Control

SMA MEAT Forum – February, 2025

Past, Present and Future of Food Safety

*Salmonella* Testing Forum - March, 2025

The *Salmonella* Story

BIFSCO – April, 2025

*Salmonella* Ground Beef Baseline Study

Mississippi State University- Food Science and Industry in Mississippi: Adding Value and

Feeding the World-April, 2025

Adding Value to the Food Industry Through Food Science and Food Research

18th Annual John Huffaker Course in Ag Law – May, 2025  
History and Influences Shaping the Future - Food Safety Laws, Policies and Rule Making at the Agency Level

Recipricol Meat Conference – June, 2025  
*Listeria* Update

**2024 Invited Presentations**

AFDO- Healthy People 2030 Workgroup-March 2024  
One Health Approach to a Safe and Abundant Food Supply  
Overcoming One Health Challenges -Cattle and Leafy Greens

ChemStation – Women in Science Forum – March, 2024  
Empowering Women in Food Safety Spaces

ICOMST – August, 2024  
Innovative Approaches to Controlling *Salmonella* the Meat Industry

Meat Industry Food Safety Conference- September, 2024  
*Salmonella* Updates in Beef

USDA-ARS – *Salmonella* Grand Challenges Workshop – October, 2024  
Innovative *Salmonella* Mitigation Strategies

WISE Women – October, 2024  
Science over Soundbites

**2023 Invited Presentations**

IPPE – National Chicken Council Technical and Regulatory Committee Meeting – January 24, 2023  
Trends in Public Health Policy Related to *Salmonella*

Poultry Federation Annual Food Safety Conference scheduled for March 7-9, 2023  
*Salmonella* Control Strategies for the Poultry Industry and Policy Updates

SafePork – April, 2023  
Food Safety Amidst Labor Challenges

Food Safety Summit – May 10, 2023

*Salmonella* in Poultry—Proposed Regulatory Changes and Intervention Strategy  
Advancements

Delmarva Chicken Association - National Meeting on Poultry Health, Processing and Live  
Production – September, 2023  
Public Health Trends for *Salmonella*

Brashears, M.M. The diversity of beef safety – from a microscopic cell to a global view. 63<sup>rd</sup>  
International Congress of Meat Science and Technology (ICoMST). August 2017.

Brashears, M.M., M.F. Miller and N. Huerta. Inspector Equivalency Training: Food Safety,  
Quality Sanitation and Animal Welfare. Presented at a SENASA workshop, Tegucigalpa,  
Honduras. Feb 2017.

#### 2018

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Hearing: Nomination of Mindy  
Brashears, Naomi Earp, and Scott Hutchins. November 28, 2018.

#### 2017

International Congress on Meat Science and Technology. Cork, Ireland, 2017. Keynote speaker.

#### 2015

U.S. House Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture and  
Research – Public Hearing. September 29, 2015.

#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS AS UNDER SECRETARY

	February 2019 Speeches	
02/12	National Chicken Council Technical & Regulatory Committee Meeting	Atlanta, Georgia
02/13	NAMI: Joint Food Safety Inspection Affairs Committee	Atlanta, Georgia
02/22	National Turkey Federation Annual Convention	San Antonio, Texas
	March 2019 Speeches	
03/05	Beef Industry Food Safety Council (BIFSCo)/ Beef Industry Safety Summit	Kansas City, Kansas
03/08	Partnership for Food Safety Education Conference	Orlando, Florida

03/15	National Food Policy Conference	Washington, D.C.
03/29	Women and Minorities in Science and Agriculture/Mississippi State Univ.	Starkville, Mississippi
	<b>April 2019 Speeches</b>	
04/01	Eastern Meat Packers Association	Rosslyn, Virginia
04/03	FSIS District Managers Meeting	Washington, D.C.
04/03	National Chicken Council Executive Policy Meeting	Washington, D.C.
04/09	Tyson Foods: Food Safety Summit	Dakota Dunes, South Dakota
04/11	NAMI: Meat Industry Summit	Carlsbad, California
04/15	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Lincoln, Nebraska
04/29	West Texas A & M	Canyon, Texas
	<b>May 2019 Speeches</b>	
05/15	2019 FoodNet Vision Meeting at the CDC	Atlanta, Georgia
05/16	United Egg Association	Washington, D.C.
	<b>June 2019 Speeches</b>	
06/11	Washington Agricultural Roundtable/City Club of Washington	Washington, D.C.
06/12	Frontline Supervisors Meeting	Washington, D.C.
06/26	American Meat Association's Reciprocal Meat Conference	Ft. Collins, Colorado
	<b>July 2019 Speeches</b>	
07/16	National Turkey Federation Leadership Dinner	Washington, D.C.
07/22	International Association for Food Protection	Louisville, Kentucky
07/24	International Life Sciences Institute: North American Food Microbiology Committee	Louisville, Kentucky

07/26	Southwest Meat Association Annual Convention	Galveston, Texas
	<b>August 2019 Speeches</b>	
08/20	OPHS AES Annual Staff Meeting	Washington, D.C.
	<b>September 2019 Speeches</b>	
09/04	Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences	Chicago, Illinois
09/05	NAMI: Meat Industry Food Safety Conference	Rosemont, Illinois
09/09	AOAC International	Denver, Colorado
09/12	OPHS Risk Assessment and Analytics All-Hands Meeting	Washington, D.C.
09/17	Introduction of Sec. Perdue at CFC Kick-Off	Washington, D.C.
09/18	Texas Cattle Feeders Association	Canyon, Texas
	<b>October 2019 Speeches</b>	
10/09	Kansas State University	Manhattan, Kansas
10/21	FDA Public Meeting: A New Era of Smarter Food Safety	Rockville, Maryland
10/29	U.S.-China Food Safety and Quality Capacity Building Collaboration	Beijing City, China
10/30	China International Food Safety & Quality Conference	Beijing City, China
	<b>November 2019 Speeches</b>	
11/4	51 <sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	Cleveland, Ohio
11/7	AFDO Annual Fall Board Meeting	Washington, D.C.
11/14	The Ohio State University: Center for Foodborne Illness Research and Prevention	Columbus, Ohio
11/27	Wheeler, Texas Junior High School	Wheeler, Texas
	<b>January 2020 Speeches</b>	

1/24/20	American Sheep Industry Association	Scottsdale, Arizona
1/30/20	NCC Board of Directors Meeting	Atlanta, Georgia
	<b>February 2020 Speeches</b>	
2/12/20	Southwest Meat Association Mid-Year Conference	Austin, Texas
2/19/2020	FSIS-ARS Research Meeting: 2020 Vision	Shepherdstown, West Virginia
2/21/2020	Ag Outlook Forum: Innovation	Arlington, Virginia
2/28/2020	Global Food Safety Initiative Conference: Consumer Goods Forum	Seattle, Washington
	<b>March 2020 Speeches</b>	
3/04/2020	Beef Industry Food Safety Council: How to Effectively Engage the Industry	San Antonio, Texas
3/04/2020	Food Safety Net Services: Science, Innovation, and Consumer Research	San Antonio, Texas
3/05/2020	TX A&M Norman Borlaug Seminar Series: 2020 Vision	College Station, Texas
3/24/2020	Lubbock Chamber of Commerce "Salute to Ag" Luncheon: 2020 Vision	Virtual
	<b>April 2020 Speeches</b>	
4/09/2020	Bowling Green State University: Public & Allied Health Symposium	Virtual
	<b>May 2020 Speeches</b>	
5/21/2020	Partnership for Food Safety Education: Statement of Support	Virtual
	<b>June 2020 Speeches</b>	
6/24/2020	FSIS Intern Town Hall: Personal Journey in Agriculture	Virtual
	<b>July 2020 Speeches</b>	
7/20/2020	National Turkey Federation Executive Committee: COVID-19 Response	Virtual
7/20/2020	Society for Nutrition Education and Behaviors: Consumer Education	Virtual



7/23/2020	Southwest Meat Association Conference: Successes, Priorities, and Modernization	Virtual
7/28/2020	Joint OFS/RD Webinar: RD Grants Available to Meat Processors	Virtual
7/29/2020	American Meat Science Association Student Board: Career in USDA	Virtual
	<b>August 2020 Speeches</b>	
8/03/2020	American Meat Science Association International Congress of Meat Science and Technology/Reciprocal Meat Conference: 2020 Vision	Virtual
8/03/2020	Texas 4-H Agricultural Leadership Program: Career in USDA	Virtual
8/24/2020	NACMCF Subcommittee Meeting	Virtual
8/26/2020	Women's Equality Day Town Hall: Issues Facing Women at FSIS	Virtual
	<b>September 2020 Speeches</b>	
09/02/2020	NAMI Food Safety Inspections Affairs Committee & Scientific Affairs Committee	Virtual
09/22/2020	FSIS Public Meeting <i>Salmonella</i> : State of the Science: Opening Remarks	Virtual
09/24/2020	NACMI Meeting: Opening Remarks	Virtual
09/25/2020	NACMI Meeting: Adjourning Remarks	Virtual
	<b>October 2020 Speeches</b>	
10/05/2020	Nebraska Extension Educators: The Science of Handwashing	Virtual
10/06/2020	FSIS Public Meeting on Consumer Education: Opening and Closing Remarks	Virtual
10/14/2020	FSIS Public Health Veterinarian Seminar: Leading With Science: Outcomes of FSIS Sampling	Virtual
10/27/2020	International Association of Food Protection: USDA Regulatory Update on Food Safety	Virtual

### **Lobbying**

In the past 10 years, have you registered as a lobbyist? If so, please indicate the state, federal, or local bodies with which you have registered (e.g., House, Senate, California Secretary of State).

No

## **8. Digital Platforms**

Please list all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently operate, or have formerly operated, an account, regardless of whether the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full “alias” or “handle”, including a link to each account if possible. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant.

Truth Social – Mindy Brashears – Active

Mindy Malynn Brashears, - Facebook and Instagram – Active

X (Twitter) – Mindy Brashears – Active

TikTok – @Mindymalynn – Active

LinkedIn – Mindy Brashears – Dormant

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS

September 16, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Mindy Brashears, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Under Secretary for Food Safety, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,  
MAURA  
LEARY

Maura K. Leary  
Acting Chief, Ethics Law and Policy Branch

 Digitally signed by MAURA  
LEARY  
Date: 2025.09.16 07:15:18  
-04'00'

Enclosures



September 11, 2025

Mr. Stuart Bender  
Designated Agency Ethics Official  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
J.L. Whitten Building  
Room 347-W  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Bender:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Under Secretary for Food Safety within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

#### SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, even if uncompensated; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my

Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

#### SECTION 2 – TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Upon confirmation, I will take an unpaid leave of absence from my position as Professor and Director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence at Texas Tech University. My spouse also is employed by the University in a position for which he receives a fixed salary. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Texas Tech University, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for either the exemption for employees on leave from institutions of higher learning allowing participation in certain particular matters of general applicability at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.203(b), or another regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2).

As a result of work performed with Texas Tech University, I am identified as the inventor of a patent (U.S. patent no. 7,323,166), which, pursuant to institutional royalty sharing policies, may result in royalty payments to me during my appointment as Under Secretary. For the duration of my appointment to the position of Under Secretary, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on my patent or my royalty and/or other rights under the patent, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

#### SECTION 3 – OUTSIDE POSITIONS

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my positions with the following entities:

- Boar's Head Provision Co., Inc.
- Claxton Poultry Farms
- Meat Institute
- International Stockmen's Education Foundation

Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation from each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know that entity is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

In addition, I previously resigned from my position on the Board of Directors of MicroZap, Inc. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation from MicroZap, Inc., I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know MicroZap, Inc., is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

## SECTION 4 – ACACIA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, LLC

I am a co-owner of a consulting firm, which does business as Acacia Professional Services, LLC. Upon confirmation, the consulting firm will cease engaging in any business, including the representation of clients. During my appointment to the position of Under Secretary, the firm will remain dormant and will not advertise. I will not perform any services for the firm, except that I will comply with any court orders or subpoenas and any requirements involving legal filings, taxes, and fees that are necessary to maintain the firms while they are in an inactive status. As Under Secretary, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Acacia Professional Services, LLC. In addition, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

Through Acacia Professional Services, LLC, I own Bottomland Prime, LLC, with two relatives. As soon as practicable but not later than 90 days after my confirmation, I will divest my financial interest in this entity. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of this entity until I have divested it, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). I have verified that I will be able to carry out the divestiture within the timeframe described above. Following divestiture, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know Bottomland Prime, LLC, is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

I (including my spouse and minor children if applicable) will not repurchase any asset I was required to divest without consulting with my agency ethics official and the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

I understand that I may be eligible to request a Certificate of Divestiture for qualifying assets and that a Certificate of Divestiture is effective only if obtained prior to divestiture. Regardless of whether I receive a Certificate of Divestiture, I will ensure that all divestitures discussed in this agreement occur within the agreed upon timeframes and that all proceeds are invested in non-conflicting assets. I understand that I must submit my request for a Certificate of Divestiture to allow for adequate time for OGE to process the Certificate of Divestiture and in order to divest assets within the agreed upon timeframe.

## SECTION 5 – GLOBAL FOOD INNOVATIONS, LLC

I am a co-owner of another consulting firm, which does business as Global Food Innovations, LLC. The consulting firm does not engage in any business, including the representation of clients. During my appointment to the position of Under Secretary, the firm will remain dormant and will not advertise. I will not perform any services for the firm, except that I will comply with any court orders or subpoenas and any requirements involving legal filings, taxes, and fees that are necessary to maintain the firms while they are in an inactive status. As Under Secretary, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests Global

Food Innovations, LLC. In addition, pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

#### SECTION 6 – KERRY INGREDIENTS

I delivered speeches to Kerry Ingredients in June and July 2025 and received honoraria for these speeches. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after the honoraria were received, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know Kerry Ingredients is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

#### SECTION 7 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mindy Brashears".

Mindy Brashears

Report Type: Nominee Report  
Year (Annual Report only):  
Date of Appointment:  
Date of Termination:

Executive Branch Personnel  
Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)

Filer's Information

Brashears, Mindy

Under Secretary of Food Safety, Department of Agriculture

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:  
None

Names of Congressional Committees Considering Nomination:

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Brashears, Mindy [electronically signed on 06/20/2025 by Brashears, Mindy in integrity.gov]

Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).



/s/ Bender, Stuart, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 09/12/2025 by Bender, Stuart in Integrity.gov]

---

Other review conducted by

---

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification

/s/ Leary, Maura K, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 09/16/2025 by Leary, Maura K in Integrity.gov]

## 1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	Texas Tech University	Lubbock, Texas	University/College	Professor and Director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence at Texas Tech University	6/2001	Present
2	Acacia Professional Services, LLC	Lubbock, Texas	LLC	Co-Owner	2/2016	Present
3	Global Food Innovations	Lubbock, Texas	LLC	Co-Owner	6/2021	Present
4	Boar's Head Food Safety Advisory Council	Sarasota, Florida	Corporation	Advisory Council Member	10/2024	Present
5	Claxton Poultry Food Safety Advisory Group	Claxton, Georgia	Corporation	Member of Advisory Group	5/2021	Present
6	Meat Institute Protein PACT Academic Advisory Council	Arlington, Virginia	Trade Association	Member of Advisory Council	1/2023	Present
7	International Stockmen's Education Foundation Board of Directors,	College Station, Texas	Non-Profit	Member of the Board of Directors	1/2022	Present
8	American Meat Science Association	Kansas City, Missouri	Non-Profit	Member of the Board of Directors	6/2021	6/2023
9	MicroZap, Inc.	Lubbock, Texas	Corporation	Member of Board of Directors	3/2021	5/2025

## 2. Filer's Employment Assets &amp; Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	"Improvement in lactic acid bacteria cultures that inhibit food-borne pathogens", Patent #07323166 (Texas Tech University) (value not readily ascertainable)	N/A		Rent or Royalties	\$15,001 - \$50,000
2	Acacia Professional Services, LLC	See Endnote	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Consulting Services	\$1,052,267
2.1	Bottomland Prime, LLC	See Endnote	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.2	Acacia Investment Group	See Endnote	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
3	Texas Tech University 403(B) Tax Deferred Account	No			
3.1	Fidelity Contrafund Class K Shares (FCNKX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.2	Fidelity Growth Company Fund Class K Shares (FGCKX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.3	Fidelity Equity-Income Fund Class K (FEIKX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.4	Oakmark Fund Investor Class Shares (OAKMX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.5	Fidelity Stock Selector Small Cap Fund Stock Selector Small Cap Shares (FDSCX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.6	Fidelity Small Cap Value Index Fund (FISVX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.7	Invesco Value Opportunities Fund Class A Shares (VVOAX)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.8	Fidelity Overseas Fund Class K Shares (FOSKX)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3.9	Fidelity Emerging Markets Fund Class K (FKEMX)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
4	Texas Tech University	See Endnote		Salary at Texas Tech University	\$402,937
5	Kerry Ingredients (Anticipated Honoraria)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

### 3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

#	EMPLOYER OR PARTY	CITY, STATE	STATUS AND TERMS	DATE
1	Acacia Professional Services, LLC	Lubbock, Texas	Acacia Professional Services, LLC will be inactive and dormant once I am confirmed by the Senate for this position.	6/2025
2	Texas Tech University	Lubbock, Texas	I will be on an unpaid leave of absence from Texas Tech University once I am confirmed by the Senate for this position.	6/2025
3	Texas Tech University	Lubbock, Texas	I will continue to participate in this defined contribution plan. The plan sponsor will not make further contributions during my appointment.	6/2001
4	Global Food Innovations	Lubbock, Texas	This entity became inactive in 2022.	8/2022

### 4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

#	SOURCE NAME	CITY, STATE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES
1	Nebraska Beef (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	Omaha, Nebraska	Food Safety Consulting
2	Boars Head (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	Saratoga Springs, Florida	Food Safety Consulting

#	SOURCE NAME	CITY, STATE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES
3	Chieffine Red Angus (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	Abernathy, Texas	Food Safety Consulting
4	Hygiena (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	Camarillo, California	Food Safety Consulting
5	Prosur (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	Naperville, Illinois	Food Safety Consulting
6	SK8 (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	New Market, Outside U.S.	Food Safety Consulting
7	Fremonta (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	San Jose, California	Food Safety Consulting
8	Cold Peak Food Safety Solutions, LLC (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	Midland, Texas	Food Safety Consulting
9	Mike McCloskey (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	San Juan, Puerto Rico	Food Safety Consulting
10	Kerry Ingredients (Client of Acacia Professional Services, LLC)	Beloit, Illinois	Food Safety Consulting
11	Texas Tech University	Lubbock, Texas	University Professor

#### 5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Texas Tech University	N/A		Salary	
2	Texas Tech 403(B) Retirement Account	No			
2.1	Fidelity Contrafund Class K Shares (FCNKX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.2	Fidelity Growth Company Fund Class K Shares (FGCKX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
2.3	Fidelity Equity-Income Fund Class K (FEIKX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.4	Oakmark Fund Investor Class Shares (OAKMX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.5	Fidelity Stock Selector Small Cap Fund Stock Selector Small Cap Shares (FDSCX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.6	Fidelity Small Cap Value Index Fund (FISVX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.7	Invesco Value Opportunities Fund Class A Shares (VVOAX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.8	Fidelity Overseas Fund Class K Shares (FOSKX)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.9	Fidelity Emerging Markets Fund Class K (FKEMX)	Yes	\$100,001 - \$250,000		None (or less than \$201)

#### 6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	U.S. bank account (cash) #1	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
2	U.S. bank account (cash) #2	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	U.S. bank account (cash) #3	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#### 7. Transactions

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

**8. Liabilities**

#	CREDITOR NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT	YEAR INCURRED	RATE	TERM
1	Mohela	Student Loan	\$50,001 - \$100,000	1999	7.125%	30 years
2	Mohela	Student Loan	\$50,001 - \$100,000	2005	2.625%	30 years
3	SoFi	Personal Loan	\$50,001 - \$100,000	2025	11.40%	5 years
4	Rocket Mortgage	Mortgage on Personal Residence	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	2025	7.625%	30 years
5	Edfinancial	Student Loan	\$15,001 - \$50,000	2024	6.625%	25 years
6	City Bank	See Endnote Mortgage on Personal Residence	\$250,001 - \$500,000	2019	6.25%	30 year
7	Mohela (Parent Plus Loan)	Student Loan	\$100,001 - \$250,000	2025	7.54% (after graduation)	15 years

**9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements**

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

## Endnotes

PART	#	ENDNOTE
1.	2	Acacia Professional Services is a consulting business in which I provide food safety consulting services. The consulting business will become dormant once I am confirmed by the Senate.
1.	3	This entity was founded by me and three other professors. We provided scientific consulting services. However, this entity went inactive in 2022.
1.	5	I serve as an uncompensated member of the Claxton Chicken Food Safety Advisory Group.
1.	6	I serve as an uncompensated member of the Meat Institute's Protein PACT Advisory Group.
1.	7	I serve as an uncompensated member on the Board of Directors of the International Stockmen's Educational Foundation.
1.	8	When I served on the American Meat Science Association's Board of Directors, I served as an uncompensated member of its board.
1.	9	I serve as an uncompensated member of the Board of Directors of MicroZap. Microzap, Inc. develops technologies that can be used as a treatment for bread to extend shelf life.
2.	2	Acacia Professional Services is a food safety consulting and services company and also holds other LLC entities. The revenue is gross revenue and is from consulting fees over an 18-month period (from January 1, 2024 to June 20, 2025). Acacia Professional Services is co-owned by me and my spouse. The value reflects operating assets (a bank account), but does not represent the values of the reported underlying holdings.
2.	2.1	Bottomland Prime is a small meat processing business. The reported dollar range reflects my ownership share, and does not reflect the total value of Bottomland Prime.
2.	2.2	Acacia Investment Group only has one asset, BioSecurity Technologies, a non-public company that has a value of zero.
2.	4	The \$402,937 Texas Tech salary amount reflects my salary which covers the period for all of calendar year 2024 and the first six months of 2025.
8.	6	Prior mortgage.



## Summary of Contents

### 1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

### 2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

### 3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment
- Leave of absence
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

#### 4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

#### 5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

#### 6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in investment income was received during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 in income was received). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

## 7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

## 8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (note: certain PAS nominees and appointees are required to report all mortgages); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

## 9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$192 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

## Privacy Act Statement

5 U.S.C. § 13101 et seq., and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U. S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. Failure to provide the requested information may result in separation, disciplinary action, or civil action. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with 5 U.S.C. §§ 13107 and § 13122(b)(1) or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(c)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (4) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (5) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (6) when the disclosing agency determines that the records are arguably relevant to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body, or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding; (7) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another, a public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents, including statements notifying an employee's supervising ethics office of the commencement of negotiations for future employment or compensation or of an agreement for future employment or compensation; (8) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of and at the request of an individual who is the subject of the record; (9) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to this system of records; (10) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement, including certifications of ethics agreement compliance, filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation; (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any certificate of divestiture issued by OGE; (12) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any waiver of the restrictions contained in Executive Order 13989 or any superseding executive order; (13) to appropriate agencies, entities and persons when there has been a suspected or confirmed breach of the system of records, the agency maintaining the records has determined that there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency, the Federal Government, or national security, and the disclosure is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm; and (14) to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or in preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity, the Federal Government, or national security. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

## Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of ten hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 250 E Street, S.W., Suite 750, Washington, DC 20024-3249.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB (that control number 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

October 27, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman, Chairman Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (the Act), as amended, provides that Presidential nominees for a position requiring the advice and consent of the Senate shall provide any necessary updates to their public financial disclosure report with respect to any outside earned income and honoraria received through the period ending no more than five days prior to the commencement of the Senate hearing of their nomination. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 13103(b)(1) and 5 C.F.R. § 2634.606(a).

Please be advised that I have informed the appropriate ethics officials that the information required by section 102(a)(1)(A) of the Act with respect to income and honoraria contained in OGE Form 278e (Executive Branch Public Financial Disclosure Report) executed by me on June 20, 2025, is current as of October 27, 2025. This date is within five days prior to the date of the hearing scheduled to consider my nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mindy Brashears".

Mindy Brashears

cc: Stuart Bender, Designated Agency Ethics Official and Director, USDA Office of Ethics

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, & FORESTRY**  
**Questions for Executive Nominees**  
**119<sup>th</sup> Congress: Part I**

**1. Basic Biographical Information**

Please provide the following information.

<i>Position to Which You Have Been Nominated</i>	
Name of Position	Date of Nomination
<u>Assistant Secretary OCR</u>	<u>June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025</u>

<i>Current Legal Name</i>			
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
Stella	Yvette	Herrell	

<i>Addresses</i>					
<u>Residential Address</u> (do not include street address)			<u>Office Address</u> (include street address)		
			Street: 1015 Cuba Avenue		
City: Alamogordo	State: NM	Zip: 88310	City: Alamogordo	State: NM	Zip: 88310

<i>Other Names Used</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<small>Check if Maiden Name</small>	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
Stella	Yvette	Trawick			1993 <small>Est</small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1997 <small>Est</small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stella	Yvette	Adams			1985 <small>Est</small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1987 <small>Est</small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<i>Birth Year and Place</i>	
Year of Birth (Do not include month and day.)	Place of Birth
1964	Ruidoso, New Mexico

<i>Marital Status</i>					
Check All That Describe Your Current Situation:					
Never Married	Married	Separated	Annulled	Divorced	Widowed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Spouse's Name (current spouse only)</i>			
<u>Spouse's First Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Middle Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Last Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Suffix</u>

<i>Spouse's Other Names Used (current spouse only)</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	Check if Maiden Name	<u>Name Used From (Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To (Month/Year)</u> (Check box if estimate)
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Children's Names (if over 18)</i>			
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix

## 2. Education

List all post-secondary schools attended.

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Type of School</u> (vocational/technical/trade school, college/university/military college, correspondence/distance/extension/online school)	<u>Date Began School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Ended School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still in school)	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
NMSU Alamogordo	University	8/1982 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	12/1982 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>		
ITT Links School of Business & Tech Institute	Technical	1/1983 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	5/1984 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>	Legal Assist Program	Approx. 5/1984
American River College	University	8/1991 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12/1991 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>		
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>		



### 3. Employment

(A) In reverse chronological order, list all of your employment activities, including unemployment and self-employment. If the employment activity was military duty, list separate employment activity periods to show each change of military duty station. Do not list employment before your 18th birthday unless to provide a minimum of two years of employment history.

<u>Type of Employment</u> (Active Military Duty Station, National Guard/Reserve, USPS Commissioned Corps, Other Federal employment, State Government (Non-Federal Employment), Self-employment, Unemployment, Federal Contractor, Non-Government Employment (excluding self-employment), Other)	<u>Name of Your Employer/Assigned Duty Station</u>	<u>Most Recent Position Title/Rank</u>	<u>Location</u> (City and State only)	<u>Date Employment Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Employment Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still employed)
Self-employment	Kooler Ice	Owner	Alamogordo, NM	03/2024 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Reliance Real Estate	Assoc. Broker	Alamogordo, NM	06/2023 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Government	U.S. House of Representatives	U.S. Representative	Washington, D.C.	01/2021 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 01/2023 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Future Real Estate	Assoc. Broker	Alamogordo, NM	04/2019 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 06/2023 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Self-employment	First Choice Real Estate	Assoc. Broker	Alamogordo, NM	08/2014 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 04/2019 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
State Government	New Mexico House of Representatives	State Representative	Santa Fe, NM	2011 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 2018 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Self-employment	(Purchasing real estate & flipping homes)	Self	Alamogordo, NM	2006 Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Alamo Earthworks & Paving	Owner	Alamogordo, NM	2001 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 2002 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Self-employment	Holiday Kennels	Owner	La Luz, NM	1997 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 2008 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Johnson & Danley Construction	Office Manager	Alamogordo, NM	1997 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est Present 2001 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Non-Government Employment	Frontier Adjusters	Owner	Las Cruces, NM	1995	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est 1997 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	USAA	Policy Services, Exec. Secretary, IT Dept	Sacramento, CA	1990	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est 1995 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	The Benjamin Franklin	Jr. Loan Processor	Tacoma, WA	1986	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est 1990 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
Non-Government Employment	Barkley Dean and Pella	Sales Assistant	Bellevue, WA	1986	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est 1986 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
State Government	Idaho Dept. of Tourism	Receptionist	Boise, ID	1984	Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est 1985 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>

**(B) List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with federal, state, or local governments, not listed elsewhere.**

<u>Name of Government Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
New Mexico State Legislature	House Legislative Assistant for 60-day Legislative Session	01/2009	03/2009 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico State Legislature	House Legislative Assistant for 30-day Legislative Session	01/2010	02/2010 Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>

**(C) List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other for profit or nonprofit organization that is not otherwise listed in response to question 3(A).**

<u>Name of Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still serving)
Herrell Properties, Ltd	Minority Share Holder Passive investor status	04/1986 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7 Diamond Liquid Waste Disposal, LLC	Majority Share Holder Passive investor status	06/2019 Est <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/>

**(D) Please submit a copy of your resume with this questionnaire.**

**4. Honors and Awards**

**List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, civilian service citations, military medals, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.**

**DEFENDER OF LIMITED GOVERNMENT AWARD** - Institute for Legislative Analysis June 2023

**CONSERVATIVE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** - American Conservative Union April 2023

**TRUE BLUE AWARD** - Family Research Council Action March 2023

**PIONEERS FOR PROSPERITY** - Americans for Prosperity Dec. 2022

**GUARDIAN OF SMALL BUSINESS** - AWARD National Federation of Independent Business Inc. Oct. 2022

**HERO OF MAIN STREET** - National Retail Federation July 2022

**DEFENDER OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM AWARD** - Club for Growth June 2022

**TRUE BLUE AWARD** - Family Research Council Action April 2022

**CONSERVATIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD** - American Conservative Union April 2022

**FREEDOM FIGHTER AWARD** - FreedomWorks Inc. Jan. 2022

**IRON LADY AWARD** - American Legislative Exchange Council July 2020

**HERO OF THE YEAR** - New Mexico Business Coalition 2015

**STATE CHAIR OF THE YEAR AWARD** - American Legislative Exchange Council Aug. 2014

## 5. Memberships

List all memberships that you have held in professional, social, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, or charitable organizations in the last 10 years.

Unless relevant to your nomination, you do NOT need to include memberships in charitable organizations available to the public as a result of a tax deductible donation of \$1,000 or less, parent-teacher associations or other organizations connected to schools attended by your children, athletic clubs or teams, automobile support organizations (such as AAA), discounts clubs (such as Groupon or Sam's Club), or affinity memberships/consumer clubs (such as frequent flyer memberships).

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Dates of Your Membership</u> (You may approximate.)	<u>Position(s) Held</u>
Otero County Assoc. of Realtors National Assoc. of Realtors	2014-present 2014-present	
Otero County Cattle Growers	2018-2022	None
NRA	2019-2023	None
NM Farm and Livestock Bureau	2020-2024	None
American Legislative Exchange Council	2010-2014 Estimated dates	State Director
American Legislative Exchange Council	2014-2018 Estimated dates	Board of Directors Member

--	--	--

### 6. Political Activity

(A) Have you ever been a candidate for or been elected or appointed to a political office?

☒ Yes ☐ No (If yes, please complete the chart below)

<u>Name of Office</u>	<u>Elected/Appointed/ Candidate Only</u>	<u>Year(s) Election Held or Appointment Made</u>	<u>Term of Service (if applicable)</u>
NM State Representative	Elected	2010, 2012, 2014, 2016	8 years (4 terms)
US House of Representatives	Elected	2020	2 years (1 term)
US House of Representatives	Candidate	2018, 2022, 2024	

(B) List any offices held in or services rendered, including volunteer services, to a political party or election committee during the last 10 years that you have not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Party/Election Committee</u>	<u>Office/Services Rendered</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Otero County Republican Party	Board Member	Oversight to party rules and CCC meetings	2008-2010 Estimated dates
Federated Republican Women of Chaves County	None	N/A	2021 – 2022 Estimated dates
Otero County Republican Women	None	N/A	2023-2024 Estimated

(C) Itemize all individual political contributions of \$200 or more that you have made in the past five years to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity. Please list each individual contribution and not the total amount contributed to the person or entity during the year.

<u>Name of Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year of Contribution</u>
Amy Clark for Sierra County Clerk	\$500.00	2024
Rebecca Dow for State Representative	\$2300.00	2024
Craig Dankus for School Board	\$500.00	2023
Candy Ezzell for Senate	\$500.00	2023
Scott Chandler for Judge	\$1000.00	2022
Committee to Elect Stephanie Lord	\$250.00	2022
Monica for Congress (Monica De La Cruz)	\$1000.00	2021
Suzi for Congress (Suzi Voyles)	\$500.00	2021
Dinah for State Representative (Dinah Vargas)	\$500.00	2020
Yvette For Congress	\$25,000.00	2020
Rick Little for House	\$1000.00	2020
Committee to Elect Stephanie Lord	\$500.00	2020
Committee to Elect Kim Skaggs	\$500.00	2020
Beth Miller for House	\$300.00	2020
Scott Chandler for House	\$1,000.00	2020

## 7. Publications and Speeches

(A) List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials that you have written, including articles published on the Internet. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all required publications even if no copy of the publication is available to provide.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Date(s) of Publication</u>
<a href="#">OPINION: Don't believe the lies and slander you're seeing about me on TV</a>	Albuquerque Journal	10/29/2024
<a href="#">OPINION: On Abortion and Where I Stand</a>	Las Cruces Bulletin	06/25/2024
<a href="#">OPINION: Abortion already being used as a wedge issue in congressional race</a>	Albuquerque Journal	05/25/2024
<a href="#">OPINION: Congressman Vasquez out of touch on Luna County Land Grab by Biden</a>	Albuquerque Journal	01/24/2024
<a href="#">OPINION: Border security requires an orderly immigration system and proper vetting</a>	Albuquerque Journal	11/12/2023
<a href="#">OPINION: EPA is planning a permanent gas increase</a>	Santa Fe New Mexican	10/07/2023
<a href="#">OPINION: Biden administration continuing to make oil and natural gas more expensive</a>	Albuquerque Journal	10/07/2023
<a href="#">Torres Small Joins Democrats who are Trying to Sabotage Trump</a>	Las Cruces News Sun	12/18/2019
<a href="#">Celebrating Collaboration and Innovation in Pennsylvania's Natural Gas Industry</a>		11/04/2021
<a href="#">OPINION: Biden won't fix our broken border, so Congress must act to protect American lives</a>	Fox News	07/29/2022
<a href="#">OPINION: Support military initiatives near rural communities</a>	Las Cruces Sun News	07/17/2023
OPINION: US Must Unlock its Resources	The Santa Fe New Mexican	06/04/2022

<a href="#">OPINION: Support for American First border policy</a>	Las Cruces Sun News	09/03/2022
<a href="#">Energy producers aren't causing gas prices to spike</a>	Washington Examiner	04/04/2022
<a href="#">Smart water management integral to New Mexico's future</a>	Las Cruces Sun News	02/27/2022
<a href="#">Oil &amp; gas are essential for New Mexico</a>	Santa Fe New Mexican	02/14/2022
<a href="#">Stand up to an aggressive, genocidal China</a>	Washington Examiner	02/11/2022
<a href="#">Closing the digital divide in New Mexico</a>	Carlsbad Current-Argus	02/04/2022
<a href="#">Let's suspend federal gas tax until Biden's inflation crisis under control</a>	Fox News	12/15/2021
<a href="#">Three introduced bills honor and help U.S. armed forces</a>	Las Cruces News Sun	11/11/2021
<a href="#">Democrat oil and gas policies harm American families</a>	Ruidoso News	09/19/2021
<a href="#">Rep. Yvette Herrell: After visiting Holloman AFB, where 5,000 Afghans are living, I have a lot of questions</a>	Fox News	09/14/2021
<a href="#">Veterans deserve freedom to choose health providers</a>	Las Cruces Sun News	05/23/2021
<a href="#">Biden's Energy Executive Orders Must Be Reversed</a>	Fox News	01/29/2021
Their View: Americans Deserve Better This Election	Las Cruces Sun News	11/30/2012
Space Shuttle Balloon Visits Alamo (2:22pm)	Las Cruces Sun News	10/31/2008
Biden's petroleum reserve another failed energy policy	Senate Library PDF	10/28/2022
New Mexico's space economy is important to our state, nation	Senate Library PDF	07/19/2022
Torres Small vote to impeach the wrong choice	Senate Library PDF	12/22/2019



Land Transfer Act would benefit Otero Co.	Alamogordo Daily News	02/06/2013
OPINION: Yvette Herrell: Building safer communities	Alamogordo Daily News	02/10/2012
LETTER: End partisan games and get down to business	Alamogordo Daily News	11/23/2011

**(B) List any formal speeches or presentations you have delivered during the last 10 years relevant to the position to which you have been nominated, and all speeches/presentations you have delivered related to any topic for the last five years. Include any testimony to Congress or any other legislative or administrative body. Include a link to each speech when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all known required speeches even if no copy is available to provide.**

<u>Title/Topic</u>	<u>Place/Audience</u>	<u>Date(s) of Speech</u>
Floor Speech/ <a href="#">Naming Post office Orangeburg, SC (Minute 52)</a>	House Floor	12/12/2022
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Drought &amp; Wildfires in Western U.S. (3:48)</a>	House Floor	07/29/2022
Floor Speech/ <a href="#">Advancing Telehealth Beyond COVID-19 Act(3:16:22)</a>	House Floor	07/27/2022
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Dessert Sage Youth Wellness Center (0:03:14)</a>	House Floor	07/18/2022
Floor Speech / <a href="#">RECA (0:29:00)</a>	House Floor	05/11/2022
Committee / <a href="#">Wildfire &amp; Forrest Management (00:44:55)</a>	House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands	04/05/2022
Press Conference / <a href="#">U.S. Southern Border Security (00:20:19)</a>	House Republicans Border Security Press Conference	04/27/2022
Press Conference / <a href="#">Leader Kevin McCarthy on Border Security &amp; Immigration (00:08:23)</a>	House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy on Border Security and Immigration	04/04/2022
House Session / <a href="#">H.R. 471, THE PAUSE ACT (02:21:45)</a>	House Floor	04/06/2022
Floor Speech / <a href="#">New Mexico's 1<sup>st</sup> Radio Station KKOBB (00:07:28)</a>	House Floor	03/29/2022

Press Conference / <a href="#">Oil Production</a> (03:29)	House Republican Leadership News Conference	03/08/2022
Floor Speech / <a href="#">SERGEANT DAN McBRIDE JR.</a> (00:41:34)	House Floor	03/08/2022
Floor Speech / <a href="#">American Independence from Russia Act</a> (00:56:35)	House Floor	03/01/2022
Committee Hybrid Roundtable / <a href="#">Washington Football Tea. Work Environment</a> (01:14:00)	House Oversight & Reform Committee Roundtable	02/03/2022
Press Conference / <a href="#">President Biden's First Year</a> (00:09:50)	House Republican Leaders on President Biden's First Year	01/20/2022
Oversight & Reform Committee / <a href="#">Cybersecurity and Ransomware Attacks</a> (01:47:35)	House Hearing on Cybersecurity and Ransomware Attacks	11/16/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Honoring Bob Wooley</a> (00:28:18)	House Floor	01/12/2022
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Finish the Wall Act</a> (00:36:53)	House Floor	12/14/2021
Committee / <a href="#">Hurricane Preparedness Response</a> (01:02:09)	Committee on Oversight and Reform	10/05/2021
Committee / <a href="#">Equal Rights Amendment</a> (02:42:58)	Committee on Oversight and Reform	10/21/2021
Committee / <a href="#">Exxon, BP, Shell, and Chevron Execs testify on Climate Change</a> (02:23:04)	Committee on Oversight and Reform	10/28/2021
Press Conference / <a href="#">House Republican Leadership News Conference</a> (00:05:49)	House Republican Leadership News Conference	11/02/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Border Patrol</a> (00:14:18)	House Floor	10/21/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">American Families</a> (04:14:37)	House Floor	10/20/2021
Committee / <a href="#">Abortion Laws</a> (03:43:32)	Committee on Oversight and Reform	09/30/2021
Committee / <a href="#">AbbVie Pharmaceutical CEO</a> (02:38:54)	Committee on Oversight and Reform	05/18/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">HR 4300 V.I.P. Act</a> (01:33:43)	House Floor	07/26/2021

CPAC <a href="#">Energy Policy Panel</a>	CPAC 2021	07/11/2021
Committee / <a href="#">Former Acting Attorney General and Former Defense Secretary Testimony on January 6 Capitol Attack (03:51:41)</a>	Committee on Oversight and Reform	05/12/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">PASUE Act (01:01:24)</a>	House Floor	06/29/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Laura Garcia Teacher of the Year (00:06:24)</a>	House Floor	06/28/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Congressional Review Act Resolution (01:05:33)</a>	House Floor	06/25/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Southern Border (03:03:30)</a>	House Floor	06/17/2021
Floor – <a href="#">Introduce Rep. Stansbury (00:03:54)</a>	House Floor	06/14/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Dan McBride (00:04:18)</a>	House Floor	05/19/2021
Press Conference / <a href="#">Biden Administration Tax Proposal (00:09:08)</a>	Press Conference House Republicans on Biden Administration Tax Proposal	05/18/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Police Week (05:04:20)</a>	House Floor	05/12/2021
Committee / <a href="#">legislative reforms, government accountability and transparency (01:32:51)</a>	Committee on Oversight and Reform	05/03/2021
Committee / <a href="#">House Oversight and Reform Subcommittee Hearing on Fossil Fuel Industry and Climate Change (00:43:46)</a>	Committee on Oversight and Reform	04/22/2021
Press Conference / <a href="#">House Republicans on Immigration and Border Security (00:19:25)</a>	Press Conference House Republicans on Immigration and Border Security	03/15/2021
<a href="#">Conservative Political Action Conference Immigration Discussion</a>	CPAC	02/27/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Border Policy (02:27:32)</a>	House Floor	03/16/2021
Press Conference / <a href="#">House Republicans News Conference on Immigration Policies (00:13:18)</a>	House Republicans News Conference on Immigration Policies	03/10/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">COVID-19 (04:13:41)</a>	House Floor	03/09/2021

<a href="#">Committee / House Oversight Committee on Postal Service Finances and Operations (03:35:42)</a>	Committee on Oversight and Reform	02/24/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Wilderness Designation (01:07:28)</a>	House Floor	02/26/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Equality Act (03:16:37)</a>	House Floor	02/25/2021
Committee / <a href="#">Trump Administration's Family Separation Immigration Policy (02:10:50)</a>	Committee on Oversight and Reform	02/04/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">State Police Officer Darian Jarrott (08:50:38)</a>	House Floor	02/05/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Biden Executive Actions (08:18:24)</a>	House Floor	02/04/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Articles of Impeachment (05:43:54)</a>	House Floor	01/13/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">25<sup>th</sup> Amendment (02:49:48)</a>	House Floor	01/12/2021
Floor Speech / <a href="#">Pennsylvania Electoral College (00:52:08)</a>	House Floor	01/06/2021
<a href="#">New Mexico 2nd Congressional District Debate</a>	C-SPAN Debate	10/07/2020
<a href="#">COS at Home   Convention of States</a>	COS at Home	06/06/2024
<a href="#">Yvette Herrell Speaks At Freedom Caucus Border Hearing</a>	FreedomWorks	02/01/2022
<a href="#">Afghan Refugee Relocation – Fox News</a>	Ingraham Angle – Fox News	10/26/2021
<a href="#">Border Crisis – NewsMax</a>	Stinchfield on NewsMax	10/14/2021
<a href="#">Democrat Spending Bill</a>	YouTube	10/25/2021
<a href="#">Women's History Month</a>	ALEC – Women's Caucus	03/29/2022
<a href="#">Albuquerque, NM Presidential Rally</a>	Presidential Rally – Albuquerque	10/31/2024

<a href="#">Battle station Office Opening remarks</a>	Las Cruces Office Grand Opening	09/21/2024
<a href="#">Yvette Herrell on her Tight Race in New Mexico</a>	Mark Levin Show	09/2024
<a href="#">Herrell, Vasquez take part in CD-2 debate</a>	KOB 4 TV Debate	10/21/2022
<a href="#">RPNM Pre-Primary Candidate Speeches - Yvette Herrell</a>	RPNM Pre-Primary	05/10/2022
<a href="#">Title 42</a>	Policy Priorities with Republican Policy Committee	07/14/2021
<a href="#">KVIA TV Interview</a>	KVIA TV	01/11/2021
<a href="#">Yvette on Morgan Ortigas Show</a>	Morgan Ortigas Show on XM Patriot	04/15/2024
<a href="#">Mornings with Mike Winters</a>	KVSPtv 106.5 Roswell's Talk FM	07/19/2022
<a href="#">Rep. Yvette Herrell Delivers the Republican Address on the Crisis at Our Southern Border</a>	Speaker Kevin McCarthy YouTube	09/25/2021
<a href="#">Speaker Kevin McCarthy to join former Congresswoman Yvette Herrell</a>	Campaign Rally – Las Cruces	04/10/2023
<a href="#">Election '24 NM Candidate Conversations</a>	New Mexico In Focus, NMPBS	11/01/2024
<a href="#">KOB4 TV Candidate Speech</a>	KOB4 TV	10/31/2024
<a href="#">Freedom Rings Episode 113</a>	Freedom Rings with Marsha Blackburn	05/18/2021
<a href="#">We Can't Finish The Border Wall': Border District Rep. Calls Out Double Standard With Capitol Fence</a>	Daily Caller	05/03/2021
<a href="#">Xochitl Torres Small, Yvette Herrell face off in first TV debate</a>	KOAT TV	09/27/2020
<a href="#">An Interview with Congresswoman Yvette Herrell, Republican from New Mexico</a>	Gabriella Hoffman Interview	04/05/2021
<a href="#">Press Conference: Biden Border Crisis</a>	GOP Press Conference	03/11/2021

### 8. Lobbying

In the past 10 years, have you registered as a lobbyist? If so, please indicate the state, federal, or local bodies with which you have registered (e.g., House, Senate, California Secretary of State). **NO**

### 9. Digital Platforms

Please list all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently operate, or have formerly operated, an account, regardless of whether the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full “alias” or “handle”, including a link to each account if possible. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant.

X [@Yvette4congress](#)

Instagram [@yvetteherrellnm](#)

Facebook [@Yvette4congress](#)  
[@Yvette.Herrell](#)

TikTok [@Yvette.Herrell](#)

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS

July 25, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by Stella Yvette Herrell, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, Department of Agriculture.

We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,  
DEBORAH  
BORTOT

Deborah Bortot  
Chief, Presidential Nominations Branch

Digitally signed by DEBORAH  
BORTOT  
Date: 2025.07.25 16:57:08  
-04'00'

Enclosures



July 24, 2025

Mr. Stuart Bender  
Designated Agency Ethics Official  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
J.L. Whitten Building  
Room 347-W  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Bender:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

#### SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, even if uncompensated; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.



I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

#### SECTION 2 – RELIANCE REAL ESTATE GROUP OF ALAMOGORDO

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position with the Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo. I currently have three active real estate listings. If any of my three active listings are sold prior to my confirmation, I will be paid a full commission based on the property's established commission fee rate. Upon confirmation, my license will be placed in "In-Active" status, and my active listings will be transferred to the Qualifying Broker. I will be paid a split commission as transactions close. The split commission rate will be fixed upon confirmation and based upon the amount of time I spent on the listing. In addition, I currently have one property that was referred to another broker. Pursuant to my referral fee agreement, I will receive a fixed referral fee upon the sale of this property. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the ability or willingness of the Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo to pay these commissions and referral fee to me, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation or until I receive these commissions and referral fee, whichever is later, I also will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know the Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). In addition, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know a former client of mine is a party or represents a party for a period of one year after I last provided service to that client, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

#### SECTION 3 – KOOLER ICE

I am the sole proprietor of my ice and water vending machine company, which does business as Kooler Ice. Upon confirmation, I will transfer my ownership of Kooler Ice to Herrell Properties, Ltd, an entity in which I am a non-managing member with only a passive investment interest. During my appointment, I will not manage this entity or provide any other services to it. Instead, I will receive only passive investment income from it. As Assistant Secretary, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of Herrell Properties, Ltd, or its underlying holdings, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1).

SECTION 4 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stella Yvette Herrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.

Stella Yvette Herrell

Report Type: Nominee Report  
Year (Annual Report only):  
Date of Appointment:  
Date of Termination:

**Executive Branch Personnel**  
**Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)**

**Filer's Information**

Herrell, Stella

Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, Department of Agriculture

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:  
None

Names of Congressional Committees Considering Nomination:

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ Herrell, Stella [electronically signed on 06/15/2025 by Herrell, Stella in Integrity.gov]

Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).

/s/ Bender, Stuart, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 07/25/2025 by Bender, Stuart in Integrity.gov]

---

Other review conducted by

---

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification

/s/ Bortot, Deborah, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 07/25/2025 by Bortot, Deborah in Integrity.gov]

### 1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Corporation	Associate Real Estate Broker	5/2023	Present
2	Kooler Ice	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Sole Proprietorship	Owner	3/2024	Present

### 2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo	N/A		Commission	\$87,207
2	Traditional IRA	No			
2.1	Investment Company of America Class A Shares (AIVSX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico (PERA) (Defined Benefit Plan)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4	Kooler Ice (Ice and water vending machine company)	N/A	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Water and Ice sales	\$34,394
5	ROTH IRA	No			
5.1	American Funds Fundamental Investors Class A Shares (ANCFX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
5.2	Growth Fund of America Class A Shares (AGTHX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
6	Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo (anticipated commission)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
7	Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo (anticipated referral fee)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

### 3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

#	EMPLOYER OR PARTY	CITY, STATE	STATUS AND TERMS	DATE
1	Kooler Ice	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Upon confirmation, I will transfer my ownership of Kooler Ice to Herrell Properties, Ltd, an entity in which I am a non-managing member with only a passive investment interest. During my appointment, I will not manage this entity or provide any other services to it. Instead, I will receive only passive investment income from it.	6/2025
2	Public Employees Retirement Association of New Mexico	Santa Fe, New Mexico	I continue to participate in a defined benefit plan.	1/2011
3	Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo	Alamogordo, New Mexico	I currently have three active real estate listings. If any of my three active listings are sold prior to my confirmation, I will be paid a full commission based on the property's established commission fee rate. Upon confirmation, my license will be placed in "In-Active" status, and my active listings will be transferred to the Qualifying Broker. I will be paid a split commission as transactions close. The split commission rate will be fixed upon confirmation and based upon the amount of time I spent on the listing.	6/2025
4	Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo	Alamogordo, New Mexico	I currently have one property that was referred to another broker. Pursuant to my referral fee agreement, I will receive a fixed referral fee upon the sale of this property.	6/2025

### 4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

#	SOURCE NAME	CITY, STATE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES
1	Reliance Real Estate Group of Alamogordo	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Services as Associate Real Estate Broker
2	Kooler Ice	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Services as Owner
3	Xochitl Venezuela	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Services as Associate Real Estate Broker
4	Centennial Village	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Services as Associate Real Estate Broker
5	Estate of Deon Kidd-Johnson	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Services as Associate Real Estate Broker
6	Kathy Teeler	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Services as Associate Real Estate Broker
7	Dan Moezzi	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Services as Associate Real Estate Broker
8	David Garcia	Alamogordo, New Mexico	Services as Associate Real Estate Broker

#### 5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

None

#### 6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	U.S. bank #1 (cash account)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2	U.S. bank #2 (cash account)	N/A	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
3	Herrell Properties LTD (Residential and commercial real estate)	No	\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	K-1 Income	\$6,331
3.1	Residential real estate, Ruidoso, New Mexico	N/A			
3.2	Commercial real estate, Greeley, Weld County, Colorado	N/A			
3.3	Commercial real estate, Alamogordo, Otero County, New Mexico	N/A			
3.4	Electronic Caregiver (Inhome electronic health monitoring)	See Endnote			
4	Electronic Playhouse (inter-active video game and dining business in Las Vegas, NV and Albuquerque, NM)	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
5	Electronic Playhouse, convertible note	N/A	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
6	7 Diamond Liquid Waste, LLC (Liquid waste disposal company)	N/A	\$500,001 - \$1,000,000		None (or less than \$201)

## 7. Transactions

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

## 8. Liabilities

None

## 9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements



(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

Endnotes

PART		#	ENDNOTE
6.		3.4	My fractional ownership interest in this company is approximately 1%.

## Summary of Contents

### 1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

### 2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

### 3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment
- Leave of absence
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in investment income was received during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 in income was received). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

## 7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

## 8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (note: certain PAS nominees and appointees are required to report all mortgages); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

## 9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$192 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

Privacy Act Statement

5 U.S.C. § 13101 et seq., and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U. S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. Failure to provide the requested information may result in separation, disciplinary action, or civil action. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with 5 U.S.C. §§ 13107 and 13122(b)(1) or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(c)(1) of title 18, any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (4) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (5) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (6) when the disclosing agency determines that the records are arguably relevant to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body, or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding; (7) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another, a public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents, including statements notifying an employee's supervising ethics office of the commencement of negotiations for future employment or compensation or of an agreement for future employment or compensation; (8) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of and at the request of an individual who is the subject of the record; (9) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to this system of records; (10) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement, including certifications of ethics agreement compliance, filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation; (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any certificate of divestiture issued by OGE; (12) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any waiver of the restrictions contained in Executive Order 13989 or any superseding executive order; (13) to appropriate agencies, entities and persons when there has been a suspected or confirmed breach of the system of records, the agency maintaining the records has determined that there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency, the Federal Government, or national security, and the disclosure is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm; and (14) to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or in preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity, the Federal Government, or national security. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of ten hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 250 E Street, S.W., Suite 750, Washington, DC 20024-3249.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB (that control number 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

October 27, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman, Chairman Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (the Act), as amended, provides that Presidential nominees for a position requiring the advice and consent of the Senate shall provide any necessary updates to their public financial disclosure report with respect to any outside earned income and honoraria received through the period ending no more than five days prior to the commencement of the Senate hearing of their nomination. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 13103(b)(1) and 5 C.F.R. § 2634.606(a).

Please be advised that I have informed the appropriate ethics officials that the information required by section 102(a)(1)(A) of the Act with respect to income and honoraria contained in OGE Form 278e (Executive Branch Public Financial Disclosure Report) executed by me on June 15, 2025, is current as of October 27, 2025. This date is within five days prior to the date of the hearing scheduled to consider my nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stella Yvette Herrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stella" being the most prominent.

Stella Yvette Herrell

cc: Stuart Bender, Designated Agency Ethics Official and Director, USDA Office of Ethics

**U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, & FORESTRY**  
**Questions for Executive Nominees**  
**119<sup>th</sup> Congress: Part I**

**1. Basic Biographical Information**

Please provide the following information.

<i>Position to Which You Have Been Nominated</i>	
<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date of Nomination</u>
Inspector General, United States Department of Agriculture	July 16, 2025

<i>Current Legal Name</i>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>
John		Walk	

<i>Addresses</i>					
<u>Residential Address</u> (do not include street address)			<u>Office Address</u> (include street address)		
			Street: 1400 Independence Ave SW		
<u>City:</u> Fairfax	<u>State:</u> VA	<u>Zip:</u> 22032	<u>City:</u> Washington	<u>State:</u> DC	<u>Zip:</u> 20250

<i>Other Names Used</i>						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	Check if Married Name	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>
					Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Birth Year and Place</i>	
<b>Year of Birth</b> (Do not include month and day.)	<b>Place of Birth</b>
1975	Seattle, Washington

<i>Marital Status</i>					
<b>Check All That Describe Your Current Situation:</b>					
<b>Never Married</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Married</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Separated</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Annulled</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Divorced</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Widowed</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Spouse's Name</i> (current spouse only)			
<u>Spouse's First Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Middle Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Last Name</u>	<u>Spouse's Suffix</u>
Ruth	Sessions	Walk	

<i>Spouse's Other Names Used</i> (current spouse only)						
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	<small>Check if Maiden Name</small>	<u>Name Used From</u> (Year) (Check box if estimate)	<u>Name Used To</u> (Month/Year) (Check box if estimate)
Ruth	Blackshear	Sessions		X	1976 <small>Est</small> <input type="checkbox"/>	2001 <small>Est</small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					<small>Est</small> <input type="checkbox"/>	<small>Est</small> <input type="checkbox"/>



<i>Children's Names (if over 18)</i>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Suffix</u>

## 2. Education

List all post-secondary schools attended.

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Type of School</u> (vocational/technical/trade school, college/university/military college, correspondence/distance/extension/online school)	<u>Date Began School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Ended School</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still in school)	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Date Awarded</u>
Antonin Scalia Law School George Mason University	Law School	8/2006 <input type="checkbox"/> Est	5/2008 <input type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present	Juris Doctor	5/17/2008
Columbus School of Law Catholic University of America	Law School	8/2005 <input type="checkbox"/> Est	8/2006 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present	None	
Occidental College	College	8/1994 <input type="checkbox"/> Est	5/1997 <input type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present	BA	5/1997
American University	University (Washington Semester Program while at Occidental College)	1/1995 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Est	5/1995 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Est <input type="checkbox"/> Present	None	

Biola University	University	8/1993	12/1993	None	
Bellevue Community College	Community College	1/1994	6/1994	None	
South Seattle Community College	Community College (received college credit while in High School)	9/1992 Est. X	12/1992 Est. X	None	

### 3. Employment

(A) In reverse chronological order, list all of your employment activities, including unemployment and self-employment. If the employment activity was military duty, list separate employment activity periods to show each change of military duty station. Do not list employment before your 18th birthday unless to provide a minimum of two years of employment history.

<b>Type of Employment</b> (Active Military Duty Station, National Guard/Reserve, USPHS Commissioned Corps, Other Federal employment, State Government (Non-Federal Employment), Self-employment, Unemployment, Federal Contractor, Non-Government Employment (excluding self-employment), Other)	<b>Name of Your Employer/Assigned Duty Station</b>	<b>Most Recent Position Title/Rank</b>	<b>Location</b> (City and State only)	<b>Date Employment Began</b> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<b>Date Employment Ended</b> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check "present" box if still employed)
Federal Government	United States Department of Agriculture	Acting Director of the Office of Tribal Relations	Washington, D.C.	9/2/2025 Est. X	Est. Present X
Federal Government	United States Department of Agriculture	Senior Advisor to the Secretary (Detailed) Designation included for public facing purposes.	Washington, D.C.	6/2025 Est. □	Est. Present □ X
Federal Government	United States Department of Agriculture	Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services	Washington, DC	2/2025	6/2025

Federal Government	United States Department of Agriculture	Judicial Officer	Washington, DC	12/2020	Est Present X
Federal Government	The White House/White House Counsel's Office	Associate Counsel to the President	Washington, DC	1/2017 Est □	12/2020 Est Present □ □
Federal Government	Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration	Attorney Advisor	Arlington, VA	6/2010 Est □	1/2017 Est Present □ □
Federal Government	Department of Homeland Security, Office of General Counsel	Attorney Advisor	Washington, DC	9/2008 Est □	6/2010 Est Present □ □
Federal Government	United States Court of Federal Claims	Judicial Extern	Washington, DC	Approximately 5/2007	Approximately 7/2007
Law Firm	Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP	Senior Government Relations Advisor	Washington, DC	1/2004 Est □	3/2007 Est Present □ □
Government Relations Firm	Collins and Company	Senior Associate	Arlington, VA	4/2003	1/2004
Federal Government	United States House of Representatives (Congressman Xavier Becerra 5/1998 – 4/2003), Congressman Tony Hall (2/1998-5/1998); Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (5/1997-2/1998)	Senior Legislative Assistant	Washington, DC	5/1997	4/2003
College	Occidental College	No formal title – assistant in politics department	Los Angeles, CA	Approximately 9/1996	Approximately 5/1997
Federal Government	United States House of Representatives Office of Congressman Xavier Becerra	Intern	Los Angeles, CA	Approximately 9/1996	Approximately 5/1997

Private Company	Dean Witter	No formal title – assisted brokers	Glendale, CA	Approximately 1/1996	Approximately 5/1996
International Government Organization	United Nations	Intern	New York NY	Approximately 8/1995	Approximately 12/1995
University	American University Food Services	No formal title – cafeteria worker	Washington, DC	Approximately 5/1995	Approximately 8/1995
Private Company	Do not recall – opinion survey	No formal title – called with opinion surveys	Washington, DC	Approximately 5/1995	Approximately 5/1995
Non-Profit	Families USA Foundation	Intern	Washington, DC	Approximately 5/1995	Approximately 8/1995
Federal Government	United States House of Representatives Office of Congressman Xavier Becerra	Intern	Washington, DC	Approximately 1/1995	Approximately 5/1995
University	Biola University	No formal title – data entry	La Mirada, CA	Approximately 9/1993	Approximately 12/1993

(B) List any advisory, consultative, honorary or other part-time service or positions with federal, state, or local governments, not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Government Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check “present” box if still serving)
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Est Present <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

(C) List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other for profit or nonprofit organization that is not otherwise listed in response to question 3(A).

<u>Name of Entity</u>	<u>Name of Position</u>	<u>Date Service Began</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate)	<u>Date Service Ended</u> (month/year) (check box if estimate) (check “present” box if still serving)
-----------------------	-------------------------	---	---

Congressional Asian Pacific American Staff Association	Vice President	9/1999	Est X	12/2000	Est X	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
			Est <input type="checkbox"/>		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>
			Est <input type="checkbox"/>		Est <input type="checkbox"/>	Present <input type="checkbox"/>

**(D) Please submit a copy of your resume with this questionnaire.**

#### **4. Honors and Awards**

List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, civilian service citations, military medals, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

### 5. Memberships

List all memberships that you have held in professional, social, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, or charitable organizations in the last 10 years.

Unless relevant to your nomination, you do NOT need to include memberships in charitable organizations available to the public as a result of a tax deductible donation of \$1,000 or less, parent-teacher associations or other organizations connected to schools attended by your children, athletic clubs or teams, automobile support organizations (such as AAA), discounts clubs (such as Groupon or Sam's Club), or affinity memberships/consumer clubs (such as frequent flyer memberships).

<u>Name of Organization</u>	<u>Dates of Your Membership</u> (You may approximate.)	<u>Position(s) Held</u>
The Federalist Society	Approximately 12/2017 to Present	Member
The Heritage Foundation	Approximately 1/2023 through 12/2023	Member
Bar of the District of Columbia	6/2010 to present	Member
Bar of the State of Maryland	12/2008 to present	Member

### 6. Political Activity

(A) Have you ever been a candidate for or been elected or appointed to a political office?

Yes ☒ No (If yes, please complete the chart below)

<u>Name of Office</u>	<u>Elected/Appointed/ Candidate Only</u>	<u>Year(s) Election Held or Appointment Made</u>	<u>Term of Service (if applicable)</u>

(B) List any offices held in or services rendered, including volunteer services, to a political party or election committee during the last 10 years that you have not listed elsewhere.

<u>Name of Party/Election Committee</u>	<u>Office/Services Rendered</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Donald Trump Presidential Election Campaign, 2016	Election Day Operations	Fielded calls from voters.	2016
Trump Pence Presidential Transition Team	Volunteer on the DHS transition team	Provided technical assistance on matters related to homeland security	2016-2017

(C) Itemize all individual political contributions of \$200 or more that you have made in the past five years to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity. Please list each individual contribution and not the total amount contributed to the person or entity during the year.

<u>Name of Recipient</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Year of Contribution</u>
John Bash for Attorney General (Texas)	\$312.30	2025



## 7. Publications and Speeches

(A) List the titles, publishers and dates of books, articles, reports or other published materials that you have written, including articles published on the Internet. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all required publications even if no copy of the publication is available to provide.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Date(s) of Publication</u>
From 12/2020 to present I served as USDA's Judicial Officer. Those decisions published by USDA are available at <a href="https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-hearings-and-appeals/office-judicial-officer/ojo-decisions">https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-hearings-and-appeals/office-judicial-officer/ojo-decisions</a> (see also Agriculture Decisions publication by USDA, available at <a href="https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-hearings-and-appeals/office-administrative-law-judges/services/agriculture-decisions-publication#:~:text=Agriculture%20Decisions%20is%20an%20official,regulatory%20programs%20are%20also%20included">https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/general-information/staff-offices/office-hearings-and-appeals/office-administrative-law-judges/services/agriculture-decisions-publication#:~:text=Agriculture%20Decisions%20is%20an%20official,regulatory%20programs%20are%20also%20included</a> . Some Judicial Officer decisions are also on the University of Arkansas website, available at <a href="https://nationalaglawcenter.org/aglaw-reporter/usda-decisions/">https://nationalaglawcenter.org/aglaw-reporter/usda-decisions/</a> . Some decisions issued by me are available from commercial databases such as Westlaw and can be searched by my name.  Information about reparation cases, including sample cases are available at <a href="https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/paca/recent-decisions">https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/paca/recent-decisions</a> .		
SNAP Alien Sponsors Letter, <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/alien-sponsors-letter">https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/alien-sponsors-letter</a>		March 18, 2025
SNAP Application Processing Timeliness Letter to Governors, <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc/timeliness/letter">https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc/timeliness/letter</a>		April 1, 2025
SNAP Guidance on Termination of CHNV Parole Programs, <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/admin/guidance-termination-chnv-parole-programs">https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/admin/guidance-termination-chnv-parole-programs</a>		April 3, 2025
The Secretary's Authority on Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waivers, <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/work-requirements/policies/secretary-authority">https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/work-requirements/policies/secretary-authority</a>		April 17, 2025
SNAP Further Guidance on Termination of CHNV Parole Programs, <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/admin/further-guidance-termination-chnv-parole-programs">https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/admin/further-guidance-termination-chnv-parole-programs</a>		April 22, 2025
Improving Eligibility Verification to Support Program Integrity, <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/admin/improving-eligibility-verification">https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/admin/improving-eligibility-verification</a>		April 24, 2025
Revised Guidance on Termination of Parole for Certain Aliens and Immediate Family Members, <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/admin/revised-guidance-termination-parole">https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/admin/revised-guidance-termination-parole</a>		June 13, 2025


(B) List any formal speeches or presentations you have delivered during the last 10 years relevant to the position to which you have been nominated, and all speeches/presentations you have delivered related to any topic for the last five years. Include any testimony to Congress or any other legislative or administrative body. Include a link to each speech when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication via email if available. Please list all known required speeches even if no copy is available to provide.

<u>Title/Topic</u>	<u>Place/Audience</u>	<u>Date(s) of Speech</u>


#### 8. Lobbying

In the past 10 years, have you registered as a lobbyist? If so, please indicate the state, federal, or local bodies with which you have registered (e.g., House, Senate, California Secretary of State).

No.

#### 9. Digital Platforms

Please list all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently operate, or have formerly operated, an account, regardless of whether the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full “alias” or “handle”, including a link to each account if possible. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant.

Linked-in -- [www.linkedin.com/in/john-walk-6589b91bb](http://www.linkedin.com/in/john-walk-6589b91bb)

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF  
GOVERNMENT ETHICS

September 4, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, I enclose a copy of the financial disclosure report filed by John Walk, who has been nominated by President Trump for the position of Inspector General, Department of Agriculture.


We have reviewed the report and have obtained advice from the agency concerning any possible conflict in light of its functions and the nominee's proposed duties. Also enclosed is an ethics agreement outlining the actions that the nominee will undertake to avoid conflicts of interest. Unless a date for compliance is indicated in the ethics agreement, the nominee must fully comply within three months of confirmation with any action specified in the ethics agreement.

Based thereon, we believe that this nominee is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing conflicts of interest.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH  
BORTOT

Deborah Bortot  
Chief, Presidential Nominations Branch

 Digitally signed by DEBORAH  
BORTOT  
Date: 2025.09.04 21:11:33  
+04'00'

Enclosures



September 2, 2025

Stuart Bender  
Designated Agency Ethics Official  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 347-W  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Bender:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

#### SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the particular matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me:

- Any spouse or minor child of mine;
- Any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner;
- Any organization in which I serve as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee, even if uncompensated; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my

Page 2 of 2

Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

JOHN WALK  
John Walk

Digitally signed  
by JOHN WALK  
Date:  
2025.09.02  
14:12:22 -04'00'

Report Type: Nominee Report  
Year (Annual Report only):  
Date of Appointment:  
Date of Termination:

Executive Branch Personnel  
Public Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 278e)

Filer's Information

Walk, John

Inspector General, Department of Agriculture

Other Federal Government Positions Held During the Preceding 12 Months:

Acing Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture (2/2025 - 6/2025)

Senior Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture (6/2025 - Present)

Judicial Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture (12/2020 - Present)

Names of Congressional Committees Considering Nomination:

- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Electronic Signature - I certify that the statements I have made in this form are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.  
/s/ Walk, John [electronically signed on 08/07/2025 by Walk, John in Integrity.gov]

---

Agency Ethics Official's Opinion - On the basis of information contained in this report, I conclude that the filer is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations (subject to any comments below).  
/s/ Bender, Stuart, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 09/04/2025 by Bender, Stuart in Integrity.gov]

---

Other review conducted by

---

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Certification  
/s/ Bortot, Deborah, Certifying Official [electronically signed on 09/04/2025 by Bortot, Deborah in Integrity.gov]



## 1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

#	ORGANIZATION NAME	CITY, STATE	ORGANIZATION TYPE	POSITION HELD	FROM	TO
1	Project 2025 (organized by the Heritage Foundation)	Washington, D.C., District of Columbia	Non-Profit	Volunteer	8/2023	5/2024

## 2. Filer's Employment Assets &amp; Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	IRA # 1	No			
1.1	Fidelity Advisor Dividend Growth Fund Class A Shares (FADAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.2	Fidelity Advisor Diversified International Fund Class A Shares (FDVAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.3	Fidelity Advisor Growth & Income Fund Class A Shares (FGIRX)	See Endnote	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.4	Fidelity Advisor Mid Cap II Fund Class A Shares (FIAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.5	Fidelity Advisor Strategic Income Fund Class A Shares (FSTAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.6	U.S. brokerage account (cash)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)
2	IRA # 2	No			
2.1	Fidelity Advisor High Income Fund Class A Shares (FGIMX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
2.2	Fidelity Advisor New Insights Fund Class A Shares (FNIAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.3	Fidelity Advisor Small Cap Fund Class A Shares (FSCDX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
2.4	U.S. brokerage account (cash)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)

### 3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

None

### 4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

None

### 5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	IRA # 1	No			
1.1	Fidelity Advisor Dividend Growth Fund Class A Shares (FADAX)	Yes	\$50,001 - \$100,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.2	Fidelity Advisor Diversified International Fund Class A Shares (FDVAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
1.3	Fidelity Advisor Strategic Income Fund Class A Shares (FSTAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1.4	U.S. brokerage account (cash)	N/A	None (or less than \$1,001)		None (or less than \$201)

#### 6. Other Assets and Income

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
1	U.S. credit union (cash account)	N/A	\$100,001 - \$250,000	Interest	\$201 - \$1,000
2	U.S. brokerage money market account (cash)	N/A	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3	VA 529 #1	No			
3.1	American High-Income Trust Class 529-A Shares (CITAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.2	American Funds Bond Fund of America 529-A (CFAAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.3	Capital Income Builder Class 529-A Shares (CIRAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.4	EuroPacific Growth Fund Class 529-A Shares (CEJAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.5	Growth Fund of America Class 529-A Shares (CGFAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.6	Investment Company of America Class 529-A Shares (CICAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.7	American SMALLCAP World Fund, Inc Class 529-A Shares (CSPAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
3.8	American Funds College 2030 Fund Class 529-A Shares (CTHAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
4	VA 529 #2	No			
4.1	American High-Income Trust Class 529-A Shares (CITAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.2	American Funds Bond Fund of America 529-A (CFAAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.3	Capital Income Builder Class 529-A Shares (CIRAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.4	EuroPacific Growth Fund Class 529-A Shares (CEUAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.5	Growth Fund of America Class 529-A Shares (CGFAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.6	Investment Company of America Class 529-A Shares (CICAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.7	American SMALLCAP World Fund, Inc Class 529-A Shares (CSPAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		None (or less than \$201)
4.8	American Funds College 2030 Fund Class 529-A Shares (CTHAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
5	US Brokerage Account	No			
5.1	Fidelity Advisor Overseas Fund Class A Shares (FAOAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$201 - \$1,000
5.2	Fidelity Advisor Equity Income Fund Class A Shares (FEIAX)	See Endnote	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$2,501 - \$5,000
5.3	Fidelity Advisor Mid Cap II Fund Class A Shares (FIAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
5.4	Franklin Virginia Tax-Free Income Fund Class A1 Shares (FRVAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$201 - \$1,000
5.5	Fidelity Advisor Strategic Income Fund Class A Shares (FSTAX)	Yes	\$1,001 - \$15,000		\$201 - \$1,000

#	DESCRIPTION	EIF	VALUE	INCOME TYPE	INCOME AMOUNT
5.6	Invesco Oppenheimer Main Street Fund Class A Shares (MSIGX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
5.7	Fidelity Money Market Portfolio Institutional Class (FNSXX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		\$1,001 - \$2,500
5.8	Ivy Mid Cap Growth Fund Class A Shares (VMGAX)	See Endnote	\$1,001 - \$15,000		\$201 - \$1,000
6	VA 529 #3	No			
6.1	American Funds College 2033 Fund Class 529-A Shares (CTLAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)
7	VA 529 #4	No			
7.1	American Funds College 2033 Fund Class 529-A Shares (CTLAX)	Yes	\$15,001 - \$50,000		None (or less than \$201)

7. Transactions

(N/A) - Not required for this type of report

8. Liabilities

#	CREDITOR NAME	TYPE	AMOUNT	YEAR INCURRED	RATE	TERM
1	Trust	Mortgage on Personal Residence	\$250,001 - \$500,000	2021	2.99%	30 years

9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

(N/A) – Not required for this type of report

Endnotes

PART	#	ENDNOTE
1.	1	Project 2025 is a coalition effort organized by the non-profit organization the Heritage Foundation. As a volunteer, this was an uncompensated position.
2.	1.3	The ticker for this fund is now FGIDX. As reported for calendar year 2024 the ticker was FGIRX.
6.	5.2	The ticker is now FIAOX. But as reported in calendar year 2024 the ticker was FEIAX.
6.	5.8	Delaware Smid Cap Growth Fund Class A Shares (DFCIX) was renamed WMGAX but I did not sell or trade anything. Our records show the name of WMGAX is Macquarie Mid-Cap Growth Class A.

## Summary of Contents

### 1. Filer's Positions Held Outside United States Government

Part 1 discloses positions that the filer held at any time during the reporting period (excluding positions with the United States Government). Positions are reportable even if the filer did not receive compensation.

This section does not include the following: (1) positions with religious, social, fraternal, or political organizations; (2) positions solely of an honorary nature; (3) positions held as part of the filer's official duties with the United States Government; (4) mere membership in an organization; and (5) passive investment interests as a limited partner or non-managing member of a limited liability company.

### 2. Filer's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 2 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned and other non-investment income of the filer totaling more than \$200 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, fees, partnership share, honoraria, scholarships, and prizes)
- Assets related to the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's business, employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).

### 3. Filer's Employment Agreements and Arrangements

Part 3 discloses agreements or arrangements that the filer had during the reporting period with an employer or former employer (except the United States Government), such as the following:

- Future employment
- Leave of absence
- Continuing payments from an employer, including severance and payments not yet received for previous work (excluding ordinary salary from a current employer)
- Continuing participation in an employee welfare, retirement, or other benefit plan, such as pensions or a deferred compensation plan
- Retention or disposition of employer-awarded equity, sharing in profits or carried interests (e.g., vested and unvested stock options, restricted stock, future share of a company's profits, etc.)

#### 4. Filer's Sources of Compensation Exceeding \$5,000 in a Year

Part 4 discloses sources (except the United States Government) that paid more than \$5,000 in a calendar year for the filer's services during any year of the reporting period.

The filer discloses payments both from employers and from any clients to whom the filer personally provided services. The filer discloses a source even if the source made its payment to the filer's employer and not to the filer. The filer does not disclose a client's payment to the filer's employer if the filer did not provide the services for which the client is paying.

#### 5. Spouse's Employment Assets & Income and Retirement Accounts

Part 5 discloses the following:

- Sources of earned income (excluding honoraria) for the filer's spouse totaling more than \$1,000 during the reporting period (e.g., salary, consulting fees, and partnership share)
- Sources of honoraria for the filer's spouse greater than \$200 during the reporting period
- Assets related to the filer's spouse's employment, business activities, other income-generating activities (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in income was received during the reporting period (e.g., equity in business or partnership, stock options, retirement plans/accounts and their underlying holdings as appropriate, deferred compensation, and intellectual property, such as book deals and patents)

This section does not include assets or income from United States Government employment or assets that were acquired separately from the filer's spouse's business employment, or other income-generating activities (e.g., assets purchased through a brokerage account). Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF). Amounts of income are not required for a spouse's earned income (excluding honoraria).

#### 6. Other Assets and Income

Part 6 discloses each asset, not already reported, (1) that ended the reporting period with a value greater than \$1,000 or (2) from which more than \$200 in investment income was received during the reporting period. For purposes of the value and income thresholds, the filer aggregates the filer's interests with those of the filer's spouse and dependent children.

This section does not include the following types of assets: (1) a personal residence (unless it was rented out during the reporting period); (2) income or retirement benefits associated with United States Government employment (e.g., Thrift Savings Plan); and (3) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, money market accounts) at a single financial institution with a value of \$5,000 or less (unless more than \$200 in income was received). Additional exceptions apply. Note: The type of income is not required if the amount of income is \$0 - \$200 or if the asset qualifies as an excepted investment fund (EIF).



## 7. Transactions

Part 7 discloses purchases, sales, or exchanges of real property or securities in excess of \$1,000 made on behalf of the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child during the reporting period.

This section does not include transactions that concern the following: (1) a personal residence, unless rented out; (2) cash accounts (e.g., checking, savings, CDs, money market accounts) and money market mutual funds; (3) Treasury bills, bonds, and notes; and (4) holdings within a federal Thrift Savings Plan account. Additional exceptions apply.

## 8. Liabilities

Part 8 discloses liabilities over \$10,000 that the filer, the filer's spouse or dependent child owed at any time during the reporting period.

This section does not include the following types of liabilities: (1) mortgages on a personal residence, unless rented out (note: certain PAS nominees and appointees are required to report all mortgages); (2) loans secured by a personal motor vehicle, household furniture, or appliances, unless the loan exceeds the item's purchase price; and (3) revolving charge accounts, such as credit card balances, if the outstanding liability did not exceed \$10,000 at the end of the reporting period. Additional exceptions apply.

## 9. Gifts and Travel Reimbursements

This section discloses:

- Gifts totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.
- Travel reimbursements totaling more than \$480 that the filer, the filer's spouse, and dependent children received from any one source during the reporting period.

For purposes of this section, the filer need not aggregate any gift or travel reimbursement with a value of \$192 or less. Regardless of the value, this section does not include the following items: (1) anything received from relatives; (2) anything received from the United States Government or from the District of Columbia, state, or local governments; (3) bequests and other forms of inheritance; (4) gifts and travel reimbursements given to the filer's agency in connection with the filer's official travel; (5) gifts of hospitality (food, lodging, entertainment) at the donor's residence or personal premises; and (6) anything received by the filer's spouse or dependent children totally independent of their relationship to the filer. Additional exceptions apply.

#### Privacy Act Statement

5 U.S.C. § 13101 et seq., and 5 C.F.R. Part 2634 of the U. S. Office of Government Ethics regulations require the reporting of this information. Failure to provide the requested information may result in separation, disciplinary action, or civil action. The primary use of the information on this report is for review by Government officials to determine compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. This report may also be disclosed upon request to any requesting person in accordance with 5 U.S.C. §§ 13107 and 13122(b)(1) or as otherwise authorized by law. You may inspect applications for public access of your own form upon request. Additional disclosures of the information on this report may be made: (1) to any requesting person, subject to the limitation contained in section 208(c)(1) of title 18; any determination granting an exemption pursuant to sections 208(b)(1) and 208(b)(3) of title 18; (2) to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency if the disclosing agency becomes aware of violations or potential violations of law or regulation; (3) to a source when necessary to obtain information relevant to a conflict of interest investigation or determination; (4) to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration in records management inspections; (5) to the Office of Management and Budget during legislative coordination on private relief legislation; (6) when the disclosing agency determines that the records are arguably relevant to a proceeding before a court, grand jury, or administrative or adjudicative body, or in a proceeding before an administrative or adjudicative body when the adjudicator determines the records to be relevant to the proceeding; (7) to reviewing officials in a new office, department or agency when an employee transfers or is detailed from one covered position to another; a public financial disclosure report and any accompanying documents, including statements notifying an employee's supervising ethics office of the commencement of negotiations for future employment or compensation or of an agreement for future employment or compensation; (8) to a Member of Congress or a congressional office in response to an inquiry made on behalf of and at the request of an individual who is the subject of the record; (9) to contractors and other non-Government employees working on a contract, service or assignment for the Federal Government when necessary to accomplish a function related to this system of records; (10) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any written ethics agreement, including certifications of ethics agreement compliance, filed with OGE by an individual nominated by the President to a position requiring Senate confirmation; (11) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any certificate of divestiture issued by OGE; (12) on the OGE Website and to any person, department or agency, any waiver of the restrictions contained in Executive Order 13889 or any superseding executive order; (13) to appropriate agencies, entities and persons when there has been a suspected or confirmed breach of the system of records, the agency maintaining the records has determined that there is a risk of harm to individuals, the agency, the Federal Government, or national security, and the disclosure is reasonably necessary to assist in connection with the agency's efforts to respond to the suspected or confirmed breach or to prevent, minimize, or remedy such harm; and (14) to another Federal agency or Federal entity, when the agency maintaining the record determines that information from this system of records is reasonably necessary to assist the recipient agency or entity in responding to a suspected or confirmed breach or in preventing, minimizing, or remedying the risk of harm to individuals, the recipient agency or entity, the Federal Government, or national security. See also the OGE/GOVT-1 executive branch-wide Privacy Act system of records.

#### Public Burden Information

This collection of information is estimated to take an average of ten hours per response, including time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing the form. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Program Counsel, U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) 250 E Street, S.W., Suite 750, Washington, DC 20024-3249.

Pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and no person is required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB (that control number 3209-0001, is displayed here and at the top of the first page of this OGE Form 278e).

October 27, 2025

The Honorable John Boozman, Chairman Committee on  
Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Ranking Member  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Klobuchar:

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (the Act), as amended, provides that Presidential nominees for a position requiring the advice and consent of the Senate shall provide any necessary updates to their public financial disclosure report with respect to any outside earned income and honoraria received through the period ending no more than five days prior to the commencement of the Senate hearing of their nomination. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 13103(b)(1) and 5 C.F.R. § 2634.606(a).

Please be advised that I have informed the appropriate ethics officials that the information required by section 102(a)(1)(A) of the Act with respect to income and honoraria contained in OGE Form 278e (Executive Branch Public Financial Disclosure Report) executed by me on August 7, 2025, is current as of October 27, 2025. This date is within five days prior to the date of the hearing scheduled to consider my nomination.

Sincerely,

**JOHN  
WALK**  
John Walk

Digitally signed  
by JOHN WALK  
Date: 2025.10.27  
10:31:47 -04'00'

cc: Stuart Bender, Designated Agency Ethics Official and Director, USDA Office of Ethics



---

---

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

OCTOBER 29, 2025

---

---

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

*Nomination Hearing*

October 29, 2025

Questions for the Record

**Dr. Mindy Brashears**

**Sen. Amy Klobuchar**

***1) Responsiveness to Congress***

If you are confirmed, do you agree to:

- a. Promptly reply to any request for information from members of this Committee or any duly constituted committee of Congress and provide the requested information?

**Yes, I do.**

- b. Promptly respond to requests for data and technical assistance in informing or drafting legislation or implementation of the law?

**Yes, I do.**

- c. Notify the Chair and Ranking Member of this Committee in advance of any major changes made by you or within the Department of Agriculture during your tenure?

**Yes, I do.**

***2) Oversight***

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Inspectors General play a critical role in providing oversight of the executive branch, regardless of administration. Will you commit to responding promptly and thoroughly to GAO and the Inspector General on all oversight requests?

**Yes, I do.**

***3) Engagement With Consumer Groups and Public Stakeholders***

Two advisory committees, the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods and the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection, were disbanded by the Administration in March. These committees are comprised of volunteers from industry and science, as well as the consumer groups and the public.

- a. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that you seek advice and input from stakeholders representing the interests of consumers and the public, in addition to taking into account voices from industry and academia?

**Yes, I do.**

**4) State Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs**

Minnesota is one of twenty-nine states that operate their own Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs that are considered at least equal to federal meat and poultry inspection. Earlier this year, USDA provided funding to increase reimbursements to states for meat and poultry inspection programs.

- a. If confirmed, will you work with Congress to ensure that states continue to receive maximum federal support for operating these programs?

**Yes, I do.**

**5) FSIS Reduction in Overtime and Holiday Inspection Fees for Small and Very Small Meat, Poultry, and Egg establishments**

USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service recently announced its plan to reduce the costs of overtime and holiday inspection fees for small and very small meat, poultry, and egg establishments temporarily for FY26.

- a. If confirmed, will you work with Congress to find permanent ways to address the burden that overtime and holiday inspection fees can cause for small and very small processors?

**Yes, I do.**

**Senator John Fetterman**

- 2) An August 21 AP report about the Listeria issue at Boar's Head indicated that you were "brought in" as part of a "panel of experts" to help address their problems.<sup>[1]</sup> **How will you effectively oversee this significant problem with one of the nation's largest deli meat producers if you have so recently been employed or contracted by them to address it?**

**I will follow the arrangements made with the Office of Government Ethics in my OGE 278 form. If confirmed, I will resign from Boar's Head's Food Safety Advisory Council and recuse myself from Boar's Head for one year. This does not preclude me from working with any other deli meat or Ready-To-Eat processor in the country, and I would intend to work with FSIS to implement the latest training and technologies to address Listeria in our meat and poultry supply.**

- 2) You also said in a 2022 interview, "I was not put on the job for worker safety. That's not my area of expertise."<sup>[2]</sup> That doesn't sit well for me and many Pennsylvania meatpacking employees who work in this industry. To keep the food supply safe, workers

must be safe first. If line speeds are so fast as to threaten worker safety, food safety will be impacted as a result. If worker conditions are so negative that plants are under-staffed, the rest of the employees will be overworked and likely make mistakes that could threaten food safety.

- a. **Do you still, in light of these concerns, believe worker safety is not part of your job at all?**

**As the head of a federal agency, worker safety is very important to me. To clarify my statement, Congress has not given FSIS regulatory authority over worker safety, but rather food safety. If confirmed, I am committed to working with my counterparts at OSHA to ensure worker safety.**

- b. **If you do not believe worker safety is at all part of your job, how will you improve engagement with external stakeholders—like labor leaders—if confirmed?**

**I am committed to meeting with and hearing the needs of all stakeholders associated with FSIS.**

<sup>[1]</sup> Aleccia, J. (2025). Federal officials to take over inspections when troubled Boar's Head plant reopens. *AP*. Available at: <https://apnews.com/article/boars-head-deli-meat-listeria-reopening-c977f07f54670b2c0ad4d9b81811725d#>

<sup>[2]</sup> Norkol, M. (2022). She says her passion is teaching. Congress called her the meatpacking industry's 'go-to fixer.' *Investigate Midwest*. Available at: <https://investigatemitwest.org/2022/09/28/she-says-her-passion-is-teaching-congress-called-her-the-meatpacking-industrys-go-to-fixer/>

### **Senator Tina Smith**

- 3) Last Congress, I introduced a bill with Senator Mullin to help foster Tribally owned and operated meat processing facilities. Additional meat processing options are good for farmers and ranchers as well as our food supply chains. The ability to operate and market their own livestock is also really important to Minnesota Tribes, especially those with buffalo herds. Tribal meat processing is not only an economic driver, but it could also mean better access to healthy, Indigenous foods.



- a.) Have you worked with the Muscogee in Oklahoma or any other tribes on setting up meat processing facilities?

**I have not visited the facilities, but I am aware of the programs to build tribally owned facilities and interested in learning more, if confirmed.**

- b.) What role do you think USDA can play in helping Tribes that want to own and operate their own meat processing facilities?

**I am open to exploring opportunities. If confirmed, I would like to have targeted roundtable/listening sessions for these groups to understand their needs so we can provide the best assistance possible especially related to inspection needs for bison, which are not amenable species but are eligible for inspection upon request.**

**Senator John Hoeven**

- a. If confirmed, how will you use your expertise and experience to further advance USDA's food safety and inspection efforts?

**If confirmed, I will make data driven and science-based decisions to inform and develop policy that will have the greatest potential to impact public health.**

- b. Would you anticipate your approach differing from your previous tenure as Under Secretary of Food Safety, and if so, how and why?

**If confirmed, I would take a similar approach in making data-driven decisions to provide the safest food supply in the world to the consumer.**

**Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock**

1. If confirmed as Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety, you would oversee the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), which plays a critical role in ensuring our nation's supply of meat and egg products are safe and protecting the public from foodborne illnesses.

- a. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring FSIS has the necessary resources and staffing to effectively and efficiently monitor meat and egg supply chains and mitigate any foodborne illness outbreaks?

**Yes, I do.**

2. The 2018 Farm Bill authorized a report to assess the FSIS interactions with small and very small meat processors, which included recommendations to increase the effectiveness of FSIS's communication with and outreach to small-scale meat processors.<sup>[11](#)</sup>

- a. Are you familiar with this report?

**Yes.**

- b. If not, will you commit to reading this report?

**I have read the report.**

- c. If confirmed, will you commit to seriously considering the recommendations of this report?

**Yes, if confirmed, I am committed to considering the report and implementing recommendations that are feasible.**

- d. If confirmed, how will you work to increase FSIS's engagement with small and medium meat processors, including by providing technical assistance to these processors throughout the inspection process?

**If confirmed, I will be committed to providing technical resources to small and very small plants through personal visits to the facilities, small plant round tables, and continuing to provide technical assistance through our consumer safety inspectors.**

**Sen. Adam B. Schiff**

1. You have the academic and professional competencies to carry out the role for which you are nominated. Nevertheless, there are numerous reports – from Congress and the press – indicating how your close ties to the meat industry have influenced your policy decisions in previous service at USDA and have negatively impacted worker safety. During the

pandemic, slaughterhouses were an epicenter of COVID and USDA policies regarding working conditions seem to have enabled that. If confirmed by the Senate, will you make unbiased and ethically informed decisions - which take into account the conditions of workers - detached from industry desires as Under Secretary for Food Safety? How can Congress be assured of this?

**Yes, I am committed to making data-driven decisions as Under Secretary for Food Safety. Congress can be assured that science will underpin all policies, and the voice of all stakeholder groups will be heard.**

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GOVPUB-A110-PURL-gpo234139/pdf/GOVPUB-A110-PURL-gpo234139.pdf>

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
*Nomination Hearing*  
October 29, 2025  
Questions for the Record  
**The Honorable Stella Yvette Herrell**

**Senator Amy Klobuchar**

**1. Responsiveness to Congress**

If you are confirmed, do you agree to:

- a. Promptly reply to any request for information from members of this Committee or any duly constituted committee of Congress and provide the requested information?

**I will reply promptly and appropriately.**

- b. Promptly respond to requests for data and technical assistance in informing or drafting legislation or implementation of the law?

**I will reply promptly and appropriately.**

- c. Notify the Chair and Ranking Member of this Committee in advance of any major changes made by you or within the Department of Agriculture during your tenure?

**I will notify as appropriate.**

**2. Oversight**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Inspectors General play a critical role in providing oversight of the executive branch, regardless of administration. Will you commit to responding promptly and thoroughly to GAO and the Inspector General on all oversight requests?

**Yes.**

**Senator Raphael Warnock**

1. The Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations is the liaison for members of Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If confirmed, you would be responsible for ensuring my staff and I have the most up-to-date information on how the Department's policies may affect farmers, rural communities, and folks who rely on nutrition programs throughout Georgia.
  - a. If confirmed, are you prepared to set aside any partisan politics and serve all members of this Committee and their constituents equally, including timely and substantive responses to all oversight letters and reasonable requests for information or documents?

**I will reply promptly and appropriately.**

- b. If confirmed, will you commit to proactively and responsively providing briefing opportunities on all relevant information and updates to Democratic members of this Committee?

**I will reply promptly and appropriately.**

**Senator Peter Welch**

1. If confirmed, how will you ensure Congress receives prompt and effective communication from USDA?

**If confirmed, I will work with USDA Office of Congressional Affairs to set guidelines to answer Congressional inquiries in a timely manner.**

**Senator John Fetterman**

1. You have taken positions that one could interpret as being disrespectful to people in the LGBTQ+ community. On February 25, 2021, you voted against the Equality Act, a bill that would prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. You stated on a podcast in 2022 that gay marriage "undermines the nuclear family as we know

it.” And you released a statement in 2024, saying, “I believe only biological females should compete in girl’s and women’s sports, and that only biological females should be able to access private spaces meant for girls and women.”

- a. How can LGBTQ+ USDA employees feel confident and comfortable that you will treat them with respect if you are confirmed?

**Throughout my career I have always treated all employees and coworkers with equal respect and dignity and will continue to in my role at USDA.**

- b. How can LGBTQ+ congressional staff also feel confident and comfortable working with you if you are confirmed?

**Throughout my career I have always treated all employees and coworkers with equal respect and dignity and in my role at USDA, if confirmed, I would extend this same respect and dignity to congressional staff.**

- c. How will you ensure these biases against the LGBTQ+ community do not impact your work with LGBTQ+ USDA staff, LGBTQ+ congressional staff, and—most importantly—LGBTQ+ farmers?

**Throughout my career I have always treated all employees and coworkers with equal respect and dignity and in my role at USDA, if confirmed, I would extend this same respect and dignity to congressional staff and farmers.**

#### **Senator Adam Schiff**

1. On July 17, 2025, I, along with 12 other U.S. Senators, sent a letter to USDA with concerns about a Federal Register notice published by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regarding the collection of personally identifiable information of SNAP recipients. We have yet to receive a response. If confirmed, can you ensure that we receive a swift response?

**I agree to reply to Committee Members with accurate and timely information.**

U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
*Nomination Hearing*  
October 29, 2025  
Questions for the Record  
**Mr. John Walk**

**Senator Amy Klobuchar**

**1) Responsiveness to Congress**

If you are confirmed, do you agree to:

- a. Promptly reply to any request for information from members of this Committee or any duly constituted committee of Congress and provide the requested information?

**I will reply promptly and appropriately.**

- b. Notify the Chair and Ranking Member of this Committee in advance of any major changes made by you or within the Department of Agriculture during your tenure?

**I will notify as appropriate.**

**2) Oversight**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) plays a critical role in providing oversight of the executive branch, regardless of administration. Will you commit to responding promptly and thoroughly to GAO on all oversight requests to the USDA Inspector General's office?

**I will respond promptly and appropriately.**

**3) Nonpartisan**

Congress established Inspectors General to serve as nonpartisan, independent watchdogs within the Executive Branch. If confirmed, do you commit to ensuring that the USDA OIG works with both Democratic and Republican Members of Congress and their staff on their requests and questions?

**I so commit.**

**4) Reports from Ongoing Work**

On March 21, I joined all of the Ranking Members in the Senate in asking for a review of this Administration's unprecedented mass dismissals of federal employees and related personnel actions. I have been closely tracking this request. USDA's Office of the Inspector General has already collected data in response to this request and has told my office that it expects to publish the first part of its review later this fall.

- a. If you are confirmed, will you commit not to interfere with the ongoing OIG review and the publication of any reports related to this request?

**I commit not to improperly interfere.**

- b. If you are confirmed, will you ensure that your staff provide the report(s) promptly to my staff and respond to any questions they might have about it?

**I commit to ensure timely transmission when it is complete and the cooperation of my office to respond to questions appropriately.**

### 5) Conflicts of Interest

At your nomination hearing, when I asked about how you would handle conflicts of interest in conducting audits, evaluations, or investigations of programs and policies that you helped put in place, you responded that you would follow applicable rules, follow advice of counsel, and consult your office of compliance and integrity.

- a. Please describe what processes you would put in place to protect against conflicts from occurring.

**Because I am not currently working at OIG, I do not know the process for conflicts of interest currently in place. If confirmed I will review the existing process with staff to make necessary changes to ensure strict compliance with applicable federal law and that OIG follows professional standards as appropriate. I will work with OIG counsel and the office of compliance and integrity on the same and to appropriately address conflicts of interest with the least disruption to the office.**

- b. Please describe how you would ensure the smooth and effective operation of the office alongside a robust conflicts process.

**Because I am not currently working at OIG, I do not know the process for conflicts of interest currently in place. If confirmed I will review the existing process with staff to make necessary changes to ensure strict compliance with applicable federal law and that OIG follows professional standards as appropriate. I will work with OIG counsel and the office of compliance and integrity on the same and to appropriately address conflicts of interest with the least disruption to the office.**

### 6) Whistleblowers

Whistleblowers are entitled by law to protection when they make reports to Inspectors General. This is important so whistleblowers can feel protected when they come forward to make reports that might pose a threat to leadership at the agency.



a. As someone who is currently a part of the USDA leadership, what steps will you take to reassure whistleblowers that they will be protected from reprisal?

**If confirmed, I will follow all laws protecting whistleblowers and work with OIG's Whistleblower Protection Coordinator to assess existing practices and make any necessary changes to ensure all legal protections are afforded to whistleblowers.**

**Senator John Fetterman**

- 2) Mr. Walk, I sent a letter—including in this hearing's record—to Secretary Rollins in May, requesting she reinstate LFPA and TEFAP funding/contracts for Pennsylvania. You responded as her designee in a wholly unhelpful way. Your letter in response is also included in this hearing's record, as it seems from your interaction with my colleague—Senator Warnock—on this very issue that you may need a refresher. **How will you ensure impartiality on issues like this when you have already taken a clear stance in favor of actions that have demonstrably harmed Pennsylvania farmers?**

**Since December 2020 I served as USDA's Judicial Officer delegated authority by the Secretary of Agriculture to make final decisions in administrative litigation in matters delegated to me. Over that period of time, I served as USDA's appellate review authority over all Administrative Law Judges of USDA in matters involving a broad range of statutes and regulations administered by USDA. I am humbled by the trust that three Senate confirmed Secretaries of Agriculture from administrations of both political parties placed in me as their delegate to make fair, impartial, and objective legal decisions based on the law and facts as they are found on the evidence. I will bring that same commitment to the role of IG. If confirmed, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel. Also, OIG has an Office of Compliance and Integrity that performs independent quality assurance and internal control reviews, inspections, and evaluations of OIG programs and operations.**

- 2) In May, I saw that you toured a retail store to discuss EBT fraud and skimming issues. This is important to me, as USDA had to pay over \$3 million back to Pennsylvania SNAP recipients for stolen benefits they lost—at no fault of their own—due to skimming. I've worked with Senators Wyden and Cassidy to introduce a comprehensive bill to update USDA's card security regulations for EBT users—the Enhanced Cybersecurity for SNAP Act. Recently, GAO found that half of FNS staff working on EBT cybersecurity

had left while you were functionally in charge of the agency as Acting Deputy Under Secretary. My bipartisan bill wouldn't address this issue because it shouldn't have to—USDA is undercutting its work across mission areas by removing staff, and this issue is hitting especially hard when USDA is years behind on issuing a regulation to update its EBT security, leaving EBT users responsible for skimmed benefits. This regulation was *required by Congress* in 2022 as part of H.R. 2617—Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

- a. **As Inspector General, how would you work with Congress to raise concerns about USDA's work preventing EBT fraud, including notifying Congress when USDA is behind on their regulatory agenda and low on staff?**

**I commit to following all the requirement of the Inspector General Act including to keep "Congress fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of [USDA] programs and operations and the necessity for and progress of corrective action." If confirmed I look forward to a robust dialogue with congressional members and staff.**

- b. **Do you think USDA should comply with statute and issue this regulation as quickly as possible?**

**Yes.**

- c. **Do you think USDA should ensure it has sufficient staff to protect EBT from fraud? If so, how would you work with the Secretary to make this happen?**

**Yes. If confirmed, I will abide by the Inspector General Act which requires the OIG to keep "the Secretary . . . fully and currently informed about problems and deficiencies relating to the administration of [USDA] programs and operations and the necessity for and progress of corrective action."**

- d. **Do you think EBT security is an important issue that the USDA Inspector General should audit, evaluate, or investigate?**

**Yes.**

**Senator Ben Ray Luján**

You served as the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services (FNCS) from February through June of this year. The Inspector General, the role to which you have been nominated, is responsible for reviewing the activities of USDA, including FNCS, and I am concerned about conflicts of interest given that you were just recently the acting head of FNCS and are currently a senior advisor to the Secretary.

**1.) To that end, what specific issues related to FNCS have you worked on or had any involvement in during this Administration?**

**If confirmed, regardless of what issues I worked on, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

**2.) Have you been involved in the categorical eligibility proposed rule that is currently pending with OMB? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you have been involved.**

**If confirmed, whether or not I worked on this matter, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

**3.) Have you been involved in or aware of decisions around the deferred resignation program? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you were involved or aware.**

**If confirmed, I commit to taking all actions the OIG is legally authorized to take, as merited by the particular facts with respect to the administration of all USDA programs and operations.**

4.) Have you been involved in or aware of decisions related to SNAP food restriction waivers? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you were involved or aware.

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in or was aware of this matter, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

5.) Have you been involved in or aware of any discussions related to public charge and nutrition programs? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you were involved or aware.

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in or was aware of this matter, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

6.) Have you been involved in or aware of any discussions or decisions related to USDA's notice on the interpretation of "Federal Public Benefit", issued July 10, 2025? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you were involved or aware?

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in or was aware of this matter, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

7.) Have you been involved in or aware of any discussions related to any rulemaking to change community eligibility provision for school meals? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you were involved or aware.

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in or was aware of this matter, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

8.) Have you been involved in or aware of any discussions related to USDA's cancellation of its annual food insecurity survey? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you were involved or aware.

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in or was aware of this matter, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

9.) Have you been involved in or aware of any discussions related to USDA's Great American Farmers Market? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you were involved or aware.

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in or was aware of this matter, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

10.) Have you been involved in or aware of any discussions related to USDA's statement on February 12, 2025, regarding GAO's legal decision related to SNAP obligations? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you were involved or aware.

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in or was aware of this matter, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

11.) Have you been involved in or aware of any decisions or discussions related to USDA's implementation of H.R. 1? If so, please describe in detail the extent to which you were involved or aware and which specific provisions of H.R. 1 (e.g., SNAP work requirements, SNAP benefit cost-share, SNAP immigration, Thrifty Food Plan, etc...) you were either involved in or had awareness of decisions or discussions.

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in or was aware of this matter, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

12.) The Administration has moved to allow additional imports of beef from Argentina. If confirmed, will you commit to reviewing USDA's actions and decisions related to the importation of Argentinian beef?

**If confirmed, I commit to taking all actions the OIG is legally authorized to take, as merited by the particular facts with respect to the administration of all USDA programs and operations.**

**Senator Peter Welch**

1. Each year, OIG contracts with an independent auditing firm to conduct an audit of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) in order to determine whether a replenishment of the borrowing authority is necessary and how much will be replenished.
  - a. If confirmed, will you ensure that an independent audit is done of the CCC each year before the refill is sought?

**If confirmed, I so commit.**

2. A key function of an inspector general is to conduct audits and investigations into the operations of the agency the IG oversees. However, IGs must decide how best to use limited resources to pursue investigations. How would you prioritize which investigations to pursue and what criteria would you use in making that determination?

If confirmed, I would prioritize OIG actions based on an evaluation of the contemporary challenges facing USDA calculated to best provide the most relevant, timely, and critical information to the head of the Department, Congress, and the American People to ensure economy, efficiency, transparency, and accountability with respect to the way USDA carries out its priorities and mission and to safeguard taxpayer dollars.

Senator Cory Booker

1. There were reports this summer that DOGE staffers or from the “Efficiency Team” at USDA received wide-ranging access to view and modify the contents of USDA’s highly sensitive system – the National Payment Service -- which makes payments to farmers and ranchers, containing the farmer’s farm loan application and entire financial history. I am seriously concerned about the unauthorized access, use, and tampering of farmer data.
  - a. Do you believe that OIG should investigate DOGE’s activities if there is reasonable evidence that the privacy of millions of American farmers has been compromised?

I believe OIG should take all actions it is legally authorized to take, as merited by the particular facts with respect to the administration of all USDA programs and operations.

- b. As the Deputy Under Secretary or the Senior Advisor to the Secretary, have you worked with anyone from DOGE or the Efficiency Team?

Yes

- c. If so, what was the nature of your work and if confirmed, how would you ensure that any investigation the Inspector General’s office conduct is independent and unbiased given your experience working with DOGE?

If confirmed, regardless of what organization or individual I worked with, or the nature of my prior work, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

2. While serving as a senior advisor to the Secretary, were you involved or did you provide advice in any way with respect to any of the following, and if so, describe your involvement or on what subject you provided advice:
  - a. The FPAC mission area, including any programs or processes administered by any agencies within FPAC; any personnel, office space, or organizational issues; strategic plans; regulations or guidelines associated with FPAC; or budgetary issues?

As Senior Advisor to the Secretary I advised on matters related to national security, faith and religious liberties, and tribal relations (as acting Director of the Office of Tribal Relations) in addition to such other matters as assigned. If confirmed, regardless of what mission area my work involved, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- b. Programs administered by Food Safety mission area, including any programs or processes administered by FSIS; any personnel, office space, or organizational issues; strategic plans; regulations or guidelines associated with FSIS; or budgetary issues?

As Senior Advisor to the Secretary I advised on matters related to national security, faith and religious liberties, and tribal relations (as acting Director of the Office of Tribal Relations) in addition to such other matters as assigned. If confirmed, regardless of what mission area my work involved, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.



- c. Programs administered by the Natural Resources and Environment mission area, including any programs or processes administered by the Forest Service; any personnel, office space, or organizational issues; strategic plans; regulations or guidelines associated with Forest Service; or budgetary issues?

As Senior Advisor to the Secretary I advised on matters related to national security, faith and religious liberties, and tribal relations (as acting Director of the Office of Tribal Relations) in addition to such other matters as assigned. If confirmed, regardless of what mission area my work involved, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- d. Programs administered by the Research, Education and Economics mission area, including any programs or processes administered by the agencies within the mission area; any personnel, office space, or organizational issues; strategic plans; regulations or guidelines associated with the mission area; or budgetary issues?

As Senior Advisor to the Secretary I advised on matters related to national security, faith and religious liberties, and tribal relations (as acting Director of the Office of Tribal Relations) in addition to such other matters as assigned. If confirmed, regardless of what mission area my work involved, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- e. Programs administered by the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area, including any programs or processes administered by any of the agencies within MRP; any personnel, office space, or organizational issues; strategic plans; regulations or guidelines associated with the mission area; or budgetary issues?

As Senior Advisor to the Secretary I advised on matters related to national security, faith and religious liberties, and tribal relations (as acting Director of the Office of Tribal Relations) in addition to such other matters as

assigned. If confirmed, regardless of what mission area my work involved, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- f. Programs administered by the Rural Development mission area, including any programs or processes administered by any of the agencies within RD; any personnel, office space, or organizational issues; strategic plans; regulations or guidelines associated with the mission area; or budgetary issues?

As Senior Advisor to the Secretary I advised on matters related to national security, faith and religious liberties, and tribal relations (as acting Director of the Office of Tribal Relations) in addition to such other matters as assigned. If confirmed, regardless of what mission area my work involved, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- g. The operation and administration of “O” offices within USDA, including any personnel, office space or organizational issues; strategic plans; or budgetary issues.

As Senior Advisor to the Secretary I advised on matters related to national security, faith and religious liberties, and tribal relations (as acting Director of the Office of Tribal Relations) in addition to such other matters as assigned. If confirmed, regardless of what office my work involved, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

Senator Adam B. Schiff

1. Under this administration, your role included serving as Acting Under Secretary of Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. How can Congress be assured you will be an objective reviewer of FNS policies moving forward given that you have worked to further this administration's FNS policies until recently?

Since December 2020 I served as USDA's Judicial Officer delegated authority by the Secretary of Agriculture to make final decisions in administrative litigation in matters delegated to me. Over that period of time, I served as USDA's appellate review authority over all Administrative Law Judges of USDA in matters involving a broad range of statutes and regulations administered by USDA. I am humbled by the trust that three Senate confirmed Secretaries of Agriculture from administrations of both political parties placed in me as their delegate to make fair, impartial, and objective legal decisions based on the law and facts as they are found on the evidence. I will bring that same commitment to the role of IG. If confirmed, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel. Also, OIG has an Office of Compliance and Integrity that performs independent quality assurance and internal control reviews, inspections, and evaluations of OIG programs and operations.

2. You have an extensive history of working on immigration policy and have worked closely with Stephen Miller, alongside other officials. As one example, you worked to further Trump's immigration enforcement policies including its "zero tolerance policy" that led to family separation. This policy was extremely detrimental and has a lasting, harmful impact on families. How can Congress be assured that your position as Inspector General will remain objective, when your career details deeply partisan stances on the topic of immigration?

Since December 2020 I served as USDA's Judicial Officer delegated authority by the Secretary of Agriculture to make final decisions in administrative litigation in matters delegated to me. Over that period of time, I served as USDA's appellate review authority over all Administrative Law Judges of USDA in matters involving a broad range of statutes and regulations administered by USDA. I am humbled by the trust that three Senate confirmed Secretaries of Agriculture from administrations of both political parties placed in me as their delegate to make fair, impartial, and objective legal decisions based on the law and facts as they are found on the evidence. I will bring that same commitment to the role of IG. If confirmed, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I

**will also seek advice of OIG counsel. Also, OIG has an Office of Compliance and Integrity that performs independent quality assurance and internal control reviews, inspections, and evaluations of OIG programs and operations.**

3. According to USDA's Economic Research Service, approximately 40 percent of the existing agriculture workforce is not legally authorized to work in this country. The Trump administration's immigration enforcement has included enforcement actions on several food and farm entities throughout the country. This Administration itself has admitted that crackdowns on farms lead to shortages in the in agricultural workforce, increased food prices, and other negative impacts. As you know, USDA's Office of the Inspector General is a law enforcement agency that regularly coordinates with other law enforcement agencies, including those within the Department of Homeland Security, when there are potential multi-jurisdictional violations of law.

- a. If confirmed, do you believe that USDA OIG should coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security relating to the immigration status of farmworkers on a farm?

**USDA OIG should cooperate as appropriate with all law enforcement agencies on matters within its authorization and consistent with all controlling legal authorities and judicious exercise of executive enforcement discretion.**

- b. If so, please detail the circumstances and the role USDA OIG will take in cooperating with the Department of Homeland Security.

**USDA OIG should cooperate as appropriate with all law enforcement agencies on matters within its authorization and consistent with all controlling legal authorities and judicious exercise of executive enforcement discretion.**

- c. How can Congress be assured that you will not use the USDA OIG role to disrupt the agricultural workforce and instead ensure a sustainable agricultural workforce for the industry?

**The Inspector General Act provides, "no Inspector-General shall be considered to be an employee who determines policies to be pursued by the United States in the nationwide administration of Federal laws." I will follow the Inspector General Act.**

4. Have you made any commitments to the White House, White House officials, the Department of Homeland Security, or any of its officials, with respect to the policies and priorities you will attempt to implement as IG?

**No.**

- a. If so, what are those commitments, and to whom were these commitments made?
- b. Have you had any discussions with the White House, White House officials, the Department of Homeland Security, or any of its officials, regarding the policies and priorities that you will attempt to implement as IG?

**No.**

5. Does the President of the United States have the authority to disregard a District Court order? A Circuit Court order? If so, under what circumstances? Please explain.

**It is not appropriate for an OIG nominee to offer a legal conclusion on the President's lawful exercise of authority under the Constitution. The OIG's Office will appropriately follow all federal court orders.**

6. What protocols will you have in place if the President of the United States, any other White House officials, or anyone acting at the direction of the President directs you to initiate or close an investigation?

**I will follow all applicable federal laws and regulations as applicable. I will apply applicable professional standards and consult OIG counsel and the Office of Compliance and Integrity as appropriate. If confirmed, I commit to ensure that OIG actions are pursued based on the merits in light of the particular facts with respect to the administration of all USDA programs and operations.**

7. What steps would you take to ensure that OIG reports remain unbiased, objective, and without interference from political appointees?

**I will follow all applicable federal laws and regulations as applicable. I will apply applicable professional standards and consult OIG counsel and the Office of Compliance and Integrity as appropriate. If confirmed, I commit to ensure that OIG actions are pursued based on the merits in light of the particular facts with respect to the administration of all USDA programs and operations.**

8. While senior advisor to the Secretary, have you been involved in providing advice or guidance, or engaged in discussions regarding the following matters:

- a. The USDA report regarding food security as a matter of national security.

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal**

regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- i. If so, what was your role?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- b. USDA policies relating to a restriction on the use of loans or grants for clean energy projects utilizing parts from countries designated as foreign adversaries.

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- i. If so, what was your role?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- c. The Intelligence Community Counterintelligence Office at USDA, and any of its processes; its personnel, organization, or location; rules or guidelines; or budgetary issues.

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees**

and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- i. If so, what was your role?

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- d. The firing of 70 foreign contract researchers, as announced by USDA on July 18, 2025.

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- i. If so, what was your role?

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- e. Issues relating to AFIDA?

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- i. If so, what was your role?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- f. Issues relating to CFIUS?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- i. If so, what was your role?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- g. National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF)?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- i. If so, what was your role?



**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- h. The faith and fellowship aspect of the Great American Farmers Market?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- i. If so, what was your role?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- i. The August 5, 2025, statement on upholding religious liberties in public engagement?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- i. If so, what was your role?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable**

to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- j. Whether to hold tribal consultations on USDA policies?

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

- i. If so, which issues did you advise to hold tribal consultations on and which issues did you advise not to hold tribal consultation on?

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this matter as Senior Advisor to the Secretary, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

9. What did you do as a volunteer for Project 2025 – specifically, what were your tasks and responsibilities, whom did you report to, and please describe any work product you created?

I provided input and advice on ways to improve efficiency of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) directed towards improving the safety of air passengers and the screening experience at United States airports. I provided various work product on how to better utilize the congressionally created Screening Partnership Program to allow TSA to put more focus on intelligence-based security regulations. I worked with a contact who coordinated others working on aspects of the homeland security enterprise outside of immigration.

10. Recent reporting details that you volunteered for 10 months for Project 2025. Project 2025 has several proposals regarding USDA.

- a. One of the proposals offered in Project 2025 is that FNCS should be eliminated.
- i. What was your role in drafting or consulting on this proposal?

**None.**

- ii. Do you agree with this recommendation?

**Did not work on proposal.**

- iii. How will this proposal inform your work as IG? Do you think you can fairly evaluate those programs?

**As to the first question – it will not. As to the second question, yes.**

- b. Another proposal is that the Conservation Reserve Program should be eliminated.

- i. What was your role in drafting or consulting on this proposal?

**None.**

- ii. Do you agree with this recommendation?

**Did not work on proposal.**

- iii. Do you think you can fairly evaluate that program as IG?

**Yes.**

- c. Project 2025 advocates for prohibiting farmers from receiving payments for ARC or PLC and crop insurance in the same year and reducing the subsidy for crop insurance.

- i. What was your role in drafting or consulting on this proposal?

**None.**

- ii. Do you agree with this recommendation?

**Did not work on proposal.**

- iii. Do you think you can fairly evaluate these programs as IG?

**Yes.**

- d. Project 2025 also calls the Commodity Credit Corporation a “slush fund” when used for things like trade aid.

- i. What was your role in drafting or consulting on this proposal?

**None.**

- ii. Do you agree with this recommendation?

**Did not work on the proposal.**

- iii. Do you plan to investigate any use of the CCC to provide assistance to farmers?

**I cannot commit to investigate or not investigate a specific matter without more information.**

- e. The IG is Congress's ear to the ground at federal agencies to eliminate and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. Will you use this relationship to advocate for or advise on the elimination of FNCS, termination of CRP, or change the payment structure to farmers that they have come to expect and rely on?

**The Inspector General Act provides, "no Inspector-General shall be considered to be an employee who determines policies to be pursued by the United States in the nationwide administration of Federal laws." I will follow the Inspector General Act.**

- 11. Your work history details your work on immigration policies during your time in the White House Counsel's office under the first Trump Administration, including closely with Stephen Miller, to develop many of the immigration policies during that time. Did you work or advise on any of following policies during your time in the White House Counsel's office:

- a. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals;

**In my capacity as Associate White House Counsel I provided advice involving federal immigration law and border security among other things across several different executive branch efforts during President Trump's first term. If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this particular matter as Associate White House Counsel, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- b. Terminating protected status for refugees; or

**In my capacity as Associate White House Counsel I provided advice involving federal immigration law and border security among other things across several different executive branch efforts during President Trump's first term. If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this particular matter as Associate White House Counsel, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable**

**to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- c. Trump administration's family separation policy?

**In my capacity as Associate White House Counsel I provided advice involving federal immigration law and border security among other things across several different executive branch efforts during President Trump's first term. If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in this particular matter as Associate White House Counsel, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

**Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock**

1. During your confirmation hearing, we discussed a letter you sent as Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services on May 2, 2025, in response to a letter my colleagues and I sent on March 25, 2025, asking for details regarding the cancellation of \$500 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). You stated that you did not participate in the decision to cancel these funds and that you were not familiar with the letter you signed, calling this funding a "slush fund."

- a. What decisions or recommendations to the Secretary or Deputy Secretary were you personally responsible for during your tenure as the acting head of FNCS?

**As Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, I provided policy leadership of USDA food and nutrition programs. The Deputy Secretary was sworn in after my time in that role. I had minimal direct contact with the Secretary in that position.**

- b. If you were not involved in this decision, what politically appointed USDA officials, to the best of your recollection, were responsible for this decision?

**It is the discretion of every Secretary of Agriculture to determine how the Commodities Credit Corporation fund is used.**

- b. If some recommendations, decisions, or actions under your purview as acting head were made by others, what were they, and who specifically directed these?

**More than 1500 employees worked within the FNCS mission area (including FNS) during my tenure who all carried out important functions within the purview of the head of the mission area.**

- c. If you were indeed not involved in this decision, then why did you respond on the Secretary's behalf in the May 2, 2025 letter?

**The May 2, 2025, letter was not part of the decision-making process in the decision to "cancel" CCC funds. The decision was already made when the letter issued. Rather, the purpose of the May 2, 2025, letter addressed to Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar was to provide assurance that USDA "has not and will not lose focus on its core mission of strengthening food security, supporting agricultural markets, and ensuring access to nutritious foods." The letter specifically pointed out, "TEFAP continues to operate uninterrupted." It was appropriate for the acting head of the mission area that administers TEFAP to assure the Ranking Member that TEFAP will continue to operate notwithstanding the decision regarding CCC funds in light of concerns raised. Although I did not make the decision to "cancel" CCC funds, it did impact how FNCS administered the program.**

- d. Did you or your staff clear decisions or take direction from anyone outside of USDA, such as staff from the Office of Management and Budget or the Department of Government Efficiency, including in the decision to cancel \$500 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)?

**It is the discretion of every Secretary of Agriculture to determine how the Commodities Credit Corporation funds are used. The Department is "under the supervision and control of the Secretary of Agriculture" as provided in 7 C.F.R. 2.1.**

2. Now that you've had the opportunity to review the May 2, 2025 letter and refresh your memory, I will repeat the question I asked you during your hearing: do you stand by the characterization of the TEFAP program, which has enjoyed bipartisan support from members of this committee, as a "slush fund" in the May 2 letter?

**Thank you for refreshing my memory and the opportunity to provide clarification for the committee. My reading of the phrase "slush fund" as used in the letter is not a reference to the TEFAP program. Rather, the term "slush fund" as used in the letter is intended as a short-hand rhetorical device to refer back to the sentiment contained in the statement at the introduction to the letter. To wit, "[t]he Biden Administration inflated statutory programs with Commodity Credit Corporation dollars without any plans for long-term solutions, and in 2024, used the pandemic as a reason to make funding announcements." As used in the letter, the phrase "slush**

**fund” was intended to characterize the Department’s view that the prior Administration abused the use of the Commodity Credit Corporation fund rather than exercise sound financial stewardship – and not as a characterization of TEFAP – or any specific program for which it was used in the past.**

- a. Is there anything in this May 2 letter you would like to clarify for the committee at this time as we consider your nomination?

**Thank you for refreshing my memory and the opportunity to provide clarification for the committee. My reading of the phrase “slush fund” as used in the letter is not a reference to the TEFAP program. Rather, the term “slush fund” as used in the letter is intended as a short-hand rhetorical device to refer back to the sentiment contained in the statement at the introduction to the letter. To wit, “[t]he Biden Administration inflated statutory programs with Commodity Credit Corporation dollars without any plans for long-term solutions, and in 2024, used the pandemic as a reason to make funding announcements.” As used in the letter, the phrase “slush fund” was intended to characterize the Department’s view that the prior Administration abused the use of the Commodity Credit Corporation fund rather than exercise sound financial stewardship – and not as a characterization of TEFAP – or any specific program for which it was used in the past.**

3. In your role as Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, did you ever visit a food bank?

**I met representatives of food banks and enjoyed the opportunity to tour a food distribution center in Arizona that facilitates food access to vulnerable people served by USDA. It was a pleasure to personally thank its staff for their good work.**

- a. Did you ever meet with representatives of food banks?

**Yes.**

4. You have served in many political roles, including in the White House Counsel's office, and most recently, as Senior Advisor to Secretary Rollins. By statute, Inspectors General are intended to be independent and nonpartisan.

- a. If you are confirmed, how will you ensure you will consider cases in an independent, nonpartisan manner?

**If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in a matter in another position, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as**

appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

Since December 2020 I served as USDA's Judicial Officer delegated authority by the Secretary of Agriculture to make final decisions in administrative litigation in matters delegated to me. Over that period of time, I served as USDA's appellate review authority over all Administrative Law Judges of USDA in matters involving a broad range of statutes and regulations administered by USDA. I am humbled by the trust that three Senate confirmed Secretaries of Agriculture from administrations of both political parties placed in me as their delegate to make fair, impartial, and objective legal decisions based on the law and facts as they are found on the evidence. I will bring that same commitment to the role of IG.

- b. If you are confirmed, how will you be able to act in an independent manner when reviewing nutrition program-related cases, considering your involvement and actions as Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services?

If confirmed, whether or not I was involved in a matter in another position, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.

Since December 2020 I served as USDA's Judicial Officer delegated authority by the Secretary of Agriculture to make final decisions in administrative litigation in matters delegated to me. Over that period of time, I served as USDA's appellate review authority over all Administrative Law Judges of USDA in matters involving a broad range of statutes and regulations administered by USDA. I am humbled by the trust that three Senate confirmed Secretaries of Agriculture from administrations of both political parties placed in me as their delegate to make fair, impartial, and objective legal decisions based on the law and facts as they are found on the evidence. I will bring that same commitment to the role of IG.

- c. If confirmed, do you plan to recuse from any particular matters or policies you worked on in your previous USDA roles since January 2025? If so, from which matters do you plan to recuse?



**If confirmed, I commit to following all federal laws, including federal regulations, regarding conflicts of interest applicable to federal employees and apply applicable professional standards safeguarding against conflicts of interests as appropriate – including on the necessity of recusal. I will also seek advice of OIG counsel and work with the Office of Compliance and Integrity when necessary.**

- d. During the hearing, you had stated that in handling conflicts of interest, you would rely on the advice of counsel and that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) has an office of compliance and integrity.
  - i. Have you talked to anyone in the OIG counsel's office specifically about handling of conflicts of interest? If so, what did they advise?

**I am not yet an employee at OIG and have not had such a conversation with its counsel.**

- ii. Have you talked to anyone in OIG's office of compliance and integrity specifically about handling conflicts of interests? If so, what did they advise?

**I am not yet an employee at OIG and have not had such a conversation with OCI.**

- e. If confirmed, do you commit to adhere to the guidance of USDA career agency ethics officials, including regarding any necessary recusals?

**I commit to seeking advice of career USDA ethics officials and to take appropriate actions in response.**

- 5. Under the *Inspector General Act of 1978*, the Inspector General's responsibilities include conducting and supervising audits and investigations relating to USDA programs, and operations and recommending policies for activities that would promote efficiency and effectiveness in program administration.
  - a. If you are confirmed, what is your strategy for meeting these responsibilities?

**If confirmed, I would prioritize OIG actions based on an evaluation of the contemporary challenges facing USDA calculated to best provide the most relevant, timely, and critical information to the head of the Department, Congress, and the American People to ensure economy, efficiency,**

**transparency, and accountability with respect to the way USDA carries out its priorities and mission and to safeguard taxpayer dollars.**

- b. How do you envision working with the mission areas responsible for these programs?

**I will seek to develop relationships of trust with mission area leadership, as appropriate, to ensure effective oversight while safeguarding the structure of the Inspector General Act that creates an objective and independent unit within USDA.**