



NORTH AMERICAN MEAT PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

Today's *USA Today* Reviews New Pre-Slaughter Technologies to Combat *E. coli*

Today's issue of *USA Today* features a prominent Life section story on new pre-slaughter technologies to combat *E. coli* O157:H7 that includes comments from Dr. James Marsden, noting he is NAMPP's Senior Science Advisor.

The article covers developments in vaccines, cattle walking through a car-wash-like spray of bacteria-eating viruses called phages, probiotics or 'exclusion' cultures much like those in yogurt that are given to cattle in their feed, pills of low-dose sodium chlorate for cattle that kill the bacteria inside the stomach without harming the animal.

"From an epidemiologic standpoint, it's clear that these pre-slaughter interventions lower the *E. coli* O157:H7 burden in the cattle, says Guy Loneragan, a professor of animal science and expert in O157:H7 in cattle at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas," the article says.

"The question is whether investing money on the ranch and feedlot will save money at the packing plant.

"Obviously the bottom line is food safety. But it's a question of where is the most appropriate place to invest the money," Loneragan says. "We're not quite sure of the extent of the financial reward and how it should be shared."

To read the complete article, go to: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2010-02-08-beeftech08_CV_N.htm