



NORTH AMERICAN MEAT PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

NAMP to Participate in Coalition Meeting to Oppose User Fees for Meat, Poultry and Egg Inspection

On Tuesday, February 5, NAMP will participate in a meeting with other members of the User Fee Coalition to take action to formally oppose user fees for meat, poultry and egg inspection.

USDA has included user fees in its 2009 budget, which was released today.

User fees are opposed by industry and consumer groups alike, as they would force meat processors to pay for all inspection services, instead of being funded by tax dollars as inspection services have been for over a century.

The proposed two new user fees would provide \$96 million to help pay for additional meat inspections, according to news reports.

One plan that would generate \$92 million through a licensing fee that all meat plants would pay based on production levels.

An additional \$4 million would be collected from plants that require additional testing, have recalls or inspections linked to an outbreak of food-borne illnesses.

"Every other facility in this country that can impact your health or any other person that can impact your health ... has to have a license," said Agriculture Undersecretary Richard Raymond, according to Reuters news service. Meat plants "bear some responsibility to pay for part of their inspection fee."

The White House said the proposal, which requires congressional approval, would generate fees that will reduce appropriation needs in the future.

NAMP is reviewing the Administration's budget proposal now and will provide more detail about provisions that impact members.