Food Protection Plan
Fact Sheet

For more than 100 years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has protected the health of Americans by improving the safety of those components of the food supply the agency regulates. In November 2007, the FDA outlined a comprehensive strategy Food Protection Plan to strengthen an already safe food system. The plan reflects recent challenges and global changes, and it builds upon advances in science and technology to safeguard the nation’s food supply against unintentional and deliberate contamination. The Food Protection Plan provides a comprehensive and integrated strategy of prevention, intervention, and response.

PREVENTION
Prevention is the keystone of an effective, proactive food defense and food safety plan. Preventive measures must be built in from the start of domestic and international food production processes. The FDA will continue to work with industry, state, local, and foreign governments to further develop the tools and science needed to identify vulnerabilities and determine the most effective approaches. The plan calls for:

- increasing corporate responsibility to prevent food-borne illnesses
- identifying food vulnerabilities and assess risks
- expanding the understanding and use of effective mitigation measures

INTERVENTION
Targeted risk-based intervention involving domestic and imported products will provide the second layer of protection. The goal is to ensure that preventive approaches are implemented and that contaminated food is identified when preventive measures are not taken or fail. The components of intervention are:

- focus inspections and sampling based on risk
- enhance risk-based surveillance
- improve the detection of food system “signals” that indicate contamination

RESPONSE
The plan bolsters FDA’s existing emergency response system. To shorten the period between detection and containment of a food-borne illness requires faster response activities and more effective communication to consumers, industry, and federal, state and international partners. To that end, FDA will:

- improve immediate response
- improve risk communications to the public, industry and other stakeholders

Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration