Abstract

Food safety regulations and the perception of risk are different among countries. This can lead to persistent trade frictions and even reduce food trade. These differences may also lead to increased dialogue between countries, with improved food safety systems the result. Although little disruption to trade has occurred for food safety reasons (considering the total volume of food trade), trade issues or crises related to food safety are wide ranging. These issues and crises challenge policymakers and industries to both protect domestic food supplies and nurture international markets. Meanwhile, consumers in developed countries are demanding safer food. Risk reduction measures and quality certification programs can not only pre-empt food safety crises, but can better position exporters in emerging overseas markets. However, coherency between trade and food safety goals requires public intervention and investment and/or private costs.

Keywords: Food safety, international trade, regulation, Salmonella, BSE, produce, seafood, trade liberalization.

Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to Nicole Ballenger and Mary Bohman for the comments and guidance they provided on this manuscript. Special thanks go to Bob Macke, Ed Scarbrough, and Kitty Smith for reviewing the manuscript. We also wish to thank the following for reviews of particular chapters: David Abler, Ed Allen, Chris Braden, Julie Caswell, Roberta Cook, Dave Egelhofer, Todd Furey, Donna Garren, Elise Golan, Jack Guzewich, Karen Hulebak, John W. Jones, Stephen Koplin, Barry Krissoff, Ludwig Lauwers, Robert S. Lijewski, Gary Lucier, Michael McElvaine, Sherri McGarry, Kenneth Nelson, Tsumeiro Otsuki, Steven Patricio, Susan Pollack, Douglas Powell, Cathy Roheim, Lee Schatz, Jim Schaub, Kathleen Segerson, Ann Marie Hillberg Seitzinger, David Skully, Mary Snyder, Agapi Somwaru, Felix Spinelli, Mary Stanley, Chuck Stoffers, Teresa Thorne, Peter J. Vardon, and Mike Villaneva. Dale Simms and Tom McDonald edited this manuscript. Wynnice Pointer-Napper assisted with the production of this manuscript.