

## Major Issues Influencing Food Safety Today

- 1864** — Louis Pasteur discovers the process of pasteurization.
- 1902** — Congress allows funding to establish food standards.
- 1905** — Patent issued for food preservation process using radiation.
- 1906** — The Federal Food and Drugs Act and the Federal Meat Inspection Act authorize the federal government to regulate the safety and quality of food after discovery of unsanitary conditions in meat packing plants.
- 1924** — In the U.S. v. 95 Barrels Alleged Apple Cider Vinegar case, the Supreme Court rules that the Food and Drugs Act condemns every statement, design or device which might mislead, misdirect or deceive, even if technically true.
- 1938** — Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic (FDC) Act is passed by Congress to begin factory inspection authorization.
- 1950** — The Public Health Service pronounces fluoridation of water as safe and effective.
- 1954** — The first significant radiological examination of food is carried out by the FDA after receiving reports that tuna being imported from Japan following atomic blasts in the Pacific was suspected of being radioactive.
- 1962** — Consumer Bill of Rights is proclaimed by President John F. Kennedy, allowing consumers the right to safety, the right to be informed, the right to choose, and the right to be heard.
- 1963** — U.S. approves irradiation of wheat flour.
- 1966** — The Fair Packaging and Labeling Act requires all consumer products in interstate commerce to be honestly labeled, with the FDA enforcing provisions on foods, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.
- 1969** — The FDA begins sanitation programs for milk, shellfish and food service.
- 1980** — A worldwide expert committee on food irradiation designates that food irradiated to certain levels is wholesome.
- 1985** — Scientists focus on *Listeria* after an outbreak in soft cheese causes 142 cases of *listeriosis* and more than 40 deaths. The FDA approves irradiation to control *trichonella* in pork.
- 1986** — The FDA approves irradiation of spices.
- 1990** — The Nutrition Labeling and Education Act requires all packaged foods to bear nutrition labeling and all health claims for food to be consistent with terms defined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
- 1992** — USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service approves irradiation in raw, packaged poultry.
- 1995** — First annual National Food Safety Education Month is celebrated.
- 1996** — Following an outbreak of dangerous *E.coli* from tainted juice, one child from Colorado dies and 14 others are seriously sickened.
- 1997** — The FDA approves irradiation of fresh and frozen red meat.
- 1999** — USDA approves irradiation of fresh and frozen red meat.
- 2000** — USDA approves final regulations for meat irradiation.
- 2000** — Ecolab and Ion Beam Applications (IBA) announce a food safety partnership designed to offer food processors a better chance of fighting serious food-borne illness.
- 2000** — The FDA approves irradiation of fresh shell eggs and irradiation of alfalfa and other sprout seeds.