

New ERS Report on Industry Food Safety Investments Available

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) released a new report entitled, *Meat and Poultry Plants' Food Safety Investments: Survey Findings, May 2004*. The report is based on a national survey of meat and poultry slaughter and processing plants about the types and amounts of food safety investments made from 1996 to 2000. The report provides evidence that the industry has invested significantly in more sophisticated food safety technologies and those expenditures have had a direct impact on the safety of the food supply and practices that control or reduce pathogens.

The stated purpose of the report is to "examine the economic forces affecting food safety expenditures, equipment use and practices in the meat and poultry slaughter and processing industries." The survey found that from 1996 through 2000, U.S. plants as a group spent about \$380 million annually and made \$570 million in long-term investments to comply with USDA's 1996 HACCP regulation. The U.S. meat and poultry industry during the same period spent an additional \$360 million on food safety investments that were unrelated to the PR/HACCP rule.

For more information or to read the report in its entirety, go to www.ers.usda.gov