



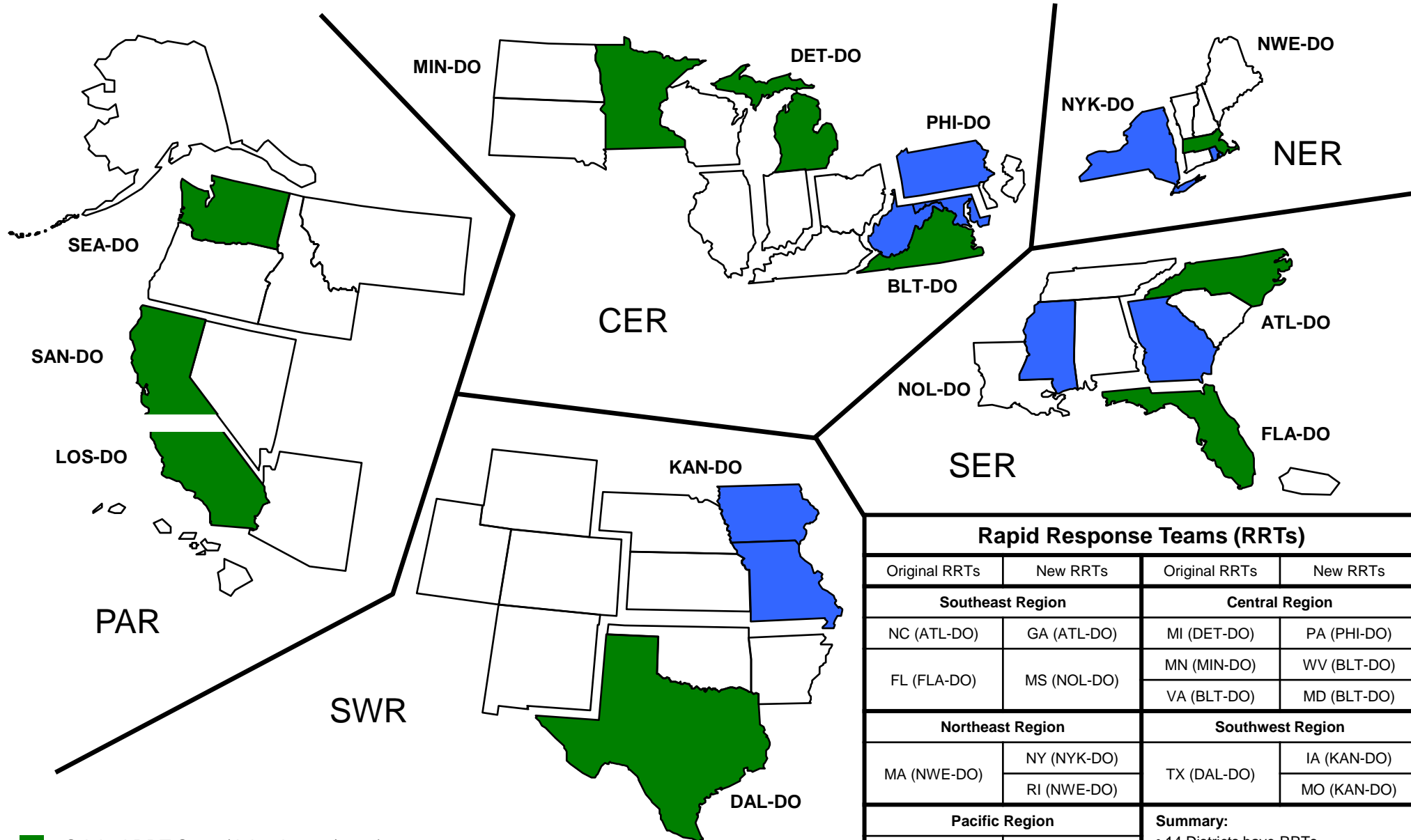
# **FDA's Rapid Response Teams (RRT) Program:**

**Strengthening State Capacity for  
Integrated All-Hazards Prevention,  
Response and Recovery Efforts for  
Incidents Involving Food and Feed**

# Rapid Response Teams (RRT)

- Why RRTs?
  - White House & Congressional interest in improving response and food safety
- Multi-year Cooperative Agreement Program
  - Awards are up to \$300,000/year (3 year awards)
  - Oversight provided by FDA/ORA Office of Partnerships
  - 18 RRTs (within 14 Districts) are currently funded

# Rapid Response Teams FY14 (2014-2015 Grant Year)



■ = Original RRT State (Joined 2008/2009)  
■ = New RRT State (Joined 2012)

Rapid Response Teams (RRTs)			
Original RRTs	New RRTs	Original RRTs	New RRTs
<b>Southeast Region</b>		<b>Central Region</b>	
NC (ATL-DO)	GA (ATL-DO)	MI (DET-DO)	PA (PHI-DO)
FL (FLA-DO)	MS (NOL-DO)	MN (MIN-DO)	WV (BLT-DO)
		VA (BLT-DO)	MD (BLT-DO)
<b>Northeast Region</b>		<b>Southwest Region</b>	
MA (NWE-DO)	NY (NYK-DO)	TX (DAL-DO)	IA (KAN-DO)
	RI (NWE-DO)		MO (KAN-DO)
<b>Pacific Region</b>		<b>Summary:</b>	
WA (SEA-DO)	N/A	• 14 Districts have RRTs	
CA (LOS-DO & SAN-DO)		• 1 District has 3 RRTs	
		• 3 Districts have 2 RRTs	
		• 10 Districts have 1 RRT	

# RRT Program Rationale

- Develop and maintain multi-jurisdictional RRTs that operate under ICS/NIMS and Unified Command to support integrated all-hazards prevention, response and recovery efforts for food/feed. Unify and coordinate federal/state/local food/feed emergency response efforts, including:
  - Strengthening the link among epidemiology, lab and environmental health components.
  - Foodborne illness/outbreak investigations, removing tainted food from commerce, root cause investigations.
  - Supporting components: training, data sharing, data analysis and communications.
  - Align with national initiatives.

# RRT Program Outcomes

- Development of Rapid Response Capabilities
  - Multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional communication and coordination
  - District/State response teams
  - ICS Implementation (Unified Command)
  - RRT Best Practices Manual
  - Capability Assessment Tool
- Improve Program Infrastructure
  - Alignment with the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards
  - Sustainability of the RRT



## Did You Know

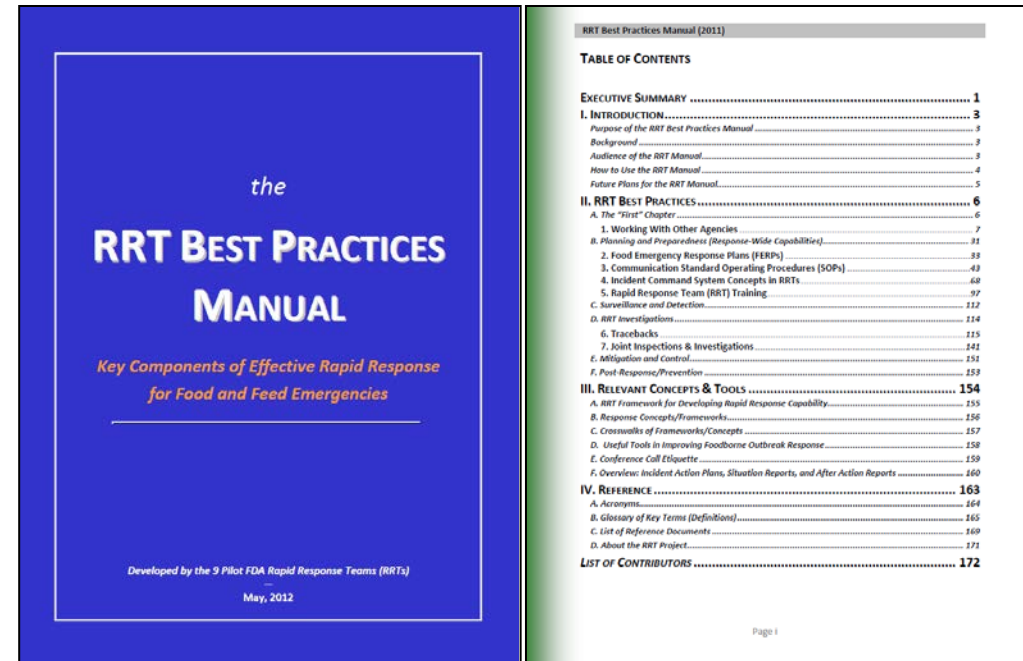
The 2013 Edition of the RRT Manual is available upon request to [OP-ORA@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:OP-ORA@fda.hhs.gov)

# How do we measure RRTs? (Capability Assessment Tool)

- **RRT Purpose:** Improve the effectiveness of multi-jurisdictional food/feed emergency responses with the ultimate objective of reducing the time from agency notification to implementation of effective control measures.
- **Four strategies** (core RRT functions) to accomplish this purpose (there are corresponding measures/metrics for each):
  - **Demonstrated preparedness/capabilities**
    - Up to date plans/procedures & trained staff
  - **Effective Responses**
    - RRT Activations, Responses & Exercises
  - **Collaboration/Coordination**
    - Multi-agency/jurisdictional; multi-disciplinary (lab/epi/EH, feed); Industry
  - **Process Improvement**
    - Participation in National Standards (manufactured food, retail, feed)
    - AARs

# RRT Best Practices Manual

- **Developed by Working Groups**
  - Multiple States and FDA
  - Multidisciplinary
- **Reviewed by Many Partners**
  - FDA Headquarters and Field Offices
  - State and local agencies
  - Associations (AFDO, NASDA, APHL, NACCHO, ASTHO)
  - Federal Partners (e.g., USDA, DHS)





# RRT Manual Chapters – 2013 Edition

1. Working With Other Agencies
2. Federal – State Cooperative Programs
3. Industry Relations
4. Tools for Program Analysis & Improvement: CIFOR
5. Food Emergency Response Plan
6. Communication SOPs
7. ICS Concepts in RRTs
8. RRT Training
9. Tracebacks
10. Joint Inspections & Investigations
11. Environmental Sampling & Records Collection
12. Food Recalls
13. After Action Reviews
14. Metrics

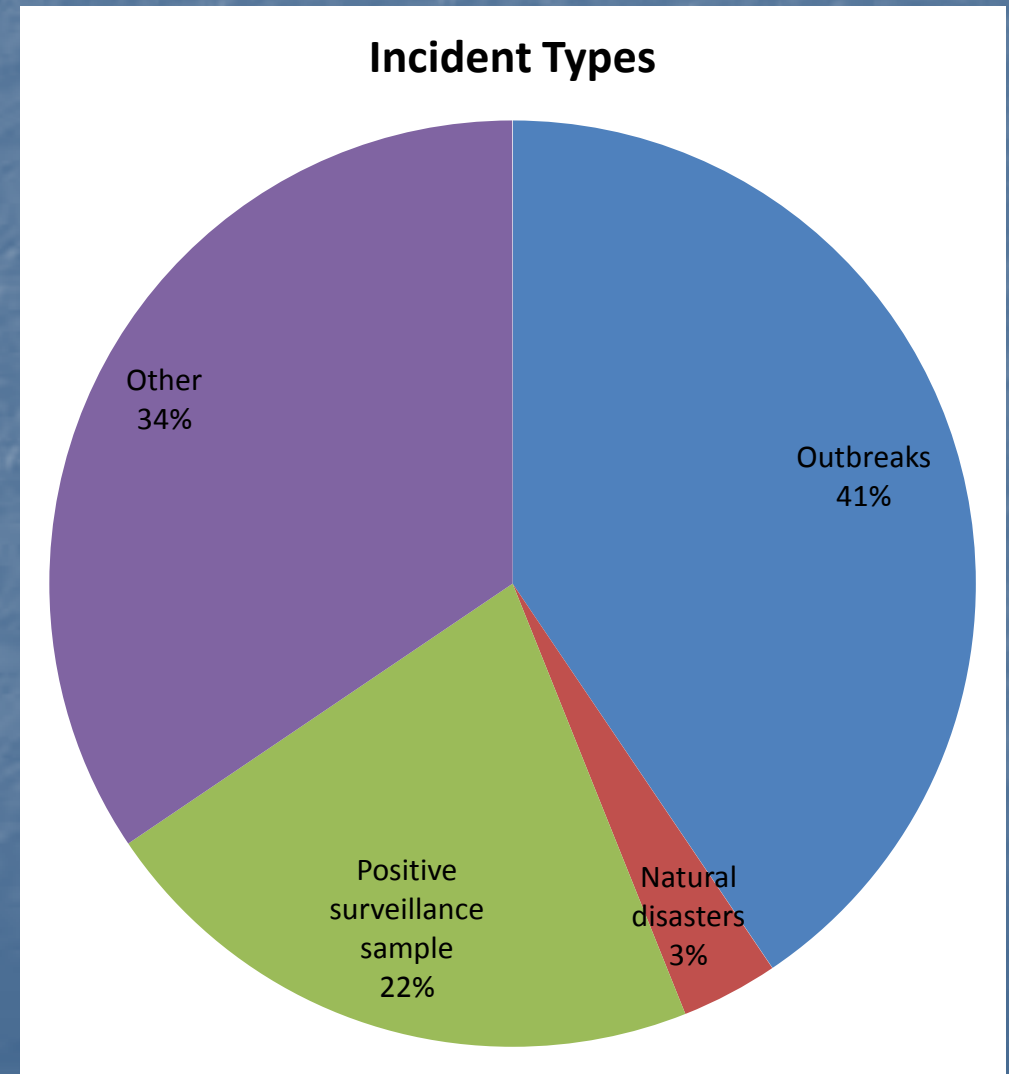


# RRT Manual 2015 Edition

- Ambitious timeframe: revisions must be done by May 2015
- Received 42 comments/proposed revisions
- 36 people volunteered to review/revise
  - Top chapters: ICS & Environmental Sampling
- One new chapter: Exercises

# RRT Investigations— By the Numbers

- 148 incidents investigated
  - 139 responses (94%)
  - 9 activations (6%)
- Wide Variety ('Other')
  - Complaint investigations
  - Recalls
  - Contamination events not linked to illnesses



# 84 On-Site Investigations

- 38% were joint investigations
- 50% involved an environmental assessment
  - 35 (74%): contributing factors were identified
    - Listeria spread within facility
    - Ineffective cleaning of raw agricultural product before serving
  - 9 (19%): a root cause was identified
    - Pesticide overuse
    - Temperature abuse
- 35% involved environmental sampling



# Use of ICS

- ICS implemented in 15 incident responses (10% of total incidents)
- Activations/Responses using ICS were significantly more likely to involve:
  - Natural Disasters
  - Longer incident duration
  - Joint investigation
  - Identification of root cause
  - Implementation of Control Measures
  - Issuing Consumer Advisories
  - Multi-jurisdictional hotwash

# Michigan RRT Update



- Improved coordination with FDA – Detroit
- Epidemiology, Aseptic Sampling, Traceback Investigation & Root Causes
- One Health Efforts
  - Avian Influenza, Rabies, Pet Food
- Ongoing efforts with pet food and livestock feed
- Partnership with Indiana
- Coordination with Local Health Departments
- ICS

**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

**FDA Office of Partnerships: OP-  
ORA@fda.hhs.gov**

**(requests for the Best Practices Manual)**

**Brad Deacon, Michigan Department of  
Agriculture and Rural Development:  
deaconb9@michigan.gov**