Federal Approval of Chinese Chicken: How it HAPPENED

**Date**
- **December 2004**
  - Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) staff goes to China to review food safety systems.

**Event**
- **July–August 2005**
  - FSIS auditors go to China to review its food safety system.

**Date**
- **May 2005**
  - FSIS inspectors detail numerous problems in a report on Chinese processing and slaughter plants.

**Date**
- **November 2005**
  - Findings from the trip are filed. FSIS found a violation of a basic US requirement at all inspected facilities.

**Date**
- **April 20, 2006**
  - The Chinese president visits the White House.

**Date**
- **April 24, 2006**
  - FSIS releases final rule giving China equal status for processing poultry.

**Date**
- **April 23, 2006**
  - U.S. Rep. DeLauro blocks funding for the implementation of the FSIS rule in the 2007 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

**Date**
- **May 23, 2006**
  - In response to WTO protest, USDA pushes for audits and inspections of Chinese slaughter and processing facilities for the opening of poultry trade.

**Date**
- **October 2009**
  - FSIS staff visits China for a review of the Chinese food safety system.

**Date**
- **March 2009**
  - Funding for the implementation of the FSIS rule blocked again in the 2009 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

**Date**
- **December 2009**
  - FSIS determines that Chinese chicken slaughter system is unfit; however, USDA Secretary Vilsack travels to China one week later to discuss trade.

**Date**
- **April 2009**
  - China begins the process to appeal the U.S. poultry ban at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**Date**
- **March 2010**
  - Reports from the December 2010 FSIS China visit are published. FSIS found serious deficiencies in the Chinese food safety system, including the use of establishment-paid employees to perform official government duties. FSIS also found numerous serious problems with the government system regulating slaughter houses.

**Date**
- **April 2011**
  - USDA determines Chinese chicken slaughter system is unfit; however, USDA Secretary Vilsack travels to China one week later to discuss trade.

**Date**
- **October 2011**
  - The report on March 2013 visit is published. FSIS agreed that China can export processed chicken to the US.