One Team, One Purpose

Food Safety and Inspection Service
Protecting Public Health and Preventing Foodborne Illness
Food Safety and Inspection Service:  
FSIS Policy on Sell-By/Use-By

- Terms used with calendar dates are not required labeling features; voluntary requirements apply if used (9 CFR 317.8, 381.129)
  - For poultry, required code/date of packing for shipping container or immediate container; dressed poultry required to have slaughter date
  - Poultry industry, more so than meat industry, voluntarily uses sell or use by date
- Calendar dates must explain the purpose and include the month of the year and day of the month, while canned products include the year
- Retailers cannot change the dates applied by Federal establishment
  - However, if the retailer places a calendar date on meat or poultry, the original sell date must be included with the new sell date
  - Once package is opened, pathogen growth/recontamination concern arises
- Safety based date labeling addressed by NACMCF (JFP 2005, 68-8; 1761—1775) – concluded little or no impact for *L. monocytogenes* disease
- Modified atmosphere packaged product has restrictions for use-by due to changes in spoilage bacteria effects
- Foodkeeper App use-by guidance has a non-food safety focus
QUESTIONS?

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