



SOUTHWEST MEAT ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

SMA Adds Meat Inspection Veteran Bobby Palesano to its Staff



January 29, 2007 – The Southwest Meat Association is pleased to announce the addition of Mr. Bobby Palesano to its staff.

Palesano will assume the role of Vice President of Technical Services on February 12, 2007. He recently announced his retirement from the Food Safety and Inspection Service, effective on February 2nd, after over 40 years of federal service. Over the years, Palesano served in a variety of jobs within FSIS, including Special Assistant to the Director of the Technical Service Center; Branch Chief, Domestic Review Staff; Processing Staff Officer;

Food Technologist Instructor at the Center for Learning; and various inspection positions in the field. Most recently he led a working group as part of FSIS' risk-based inspection initiative and co-lead a task force for strengthening FSIS outreach to small and very small plants.

Palesano will be co-employed by the International HACCP Alliance, splitting his time between the Alliance and SMA. In his position at SMA, he will provide technical and regulatory assistance to member firms, assisting them with all regulatory compliance related issues as well as the development and implementation of food safety programs.

“We are really excited about this excellent addition to SMA’s staff,” said SMA President, Glen Kusak. “Bobby brings an enormous amount of expertise and experience to the position. SMA has become known for providing excellent service and value to its members. Bobby will be a valuable asset to the association, and our members will be the fortunate beneficiaries of his knowledge.”

“Bobby Palesano will provide a terrific boost in our ability to effectively serve an expanding membership,” added SMA executive director Dr. Joe Harris. “As a charter member of the HACCP Alliance, SMA is glad to be able to partner with the Alliance in this unique way.”

The Southwest Meat Association is in its 50th year of representing meat packers and processors.

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