



corresponding to the result of their most recent hygiene inspection. They analyze a variety of different data to assess the effects of these grade cards on restaurant hygiene, restaurant revenue, restaurant prices and output, behavior of inspectors, and, most importantly, the occurrence of food-related illnesses.

Prior to the December 2003 discovery of a cow with BSE in Washington State, the United States implemented measures to prevent the disease from entering the country and to prevent its spread if it were found. Following that discovery, additional measures were introduced both to safeguard public health and reassure domestic and foreign consumers about the safety of US beef. Fox et al. review the various measures that have been taken and additional measures that have been proposed

and discuss the efficiency of the US response to the disease.

Fearne and Garcia Martinez note that growing concern about food safety is pressuring government agencies to be more prescriptive and proactive in their regulation of the food industry. Given the scarcity of public sector resources and the scale of the task at hand, however, there is growing interest in the notion of coregulation, with public and private sectors working hand in hand to deliver safer food at lower (regulatory) cost. This paper explores the opportunities for and some of the barriers to coregulation of food safety from a UK perspective.

To maintain a reputation or to meet contractual or regulatory requirements, firms choose different target levels of pathogen control for various meat and poultry products.

Roberts finds that private strategies to control pathogens are diverse and that supply chain control is crucial. Public information and regulations strengthen private incentives for pathogen control. Starbird uses a principal agent model to examine the design of supply chain contracts and improve the safety of purchased inputs. The opportunity to use supply chain contracts to improve food safety exists even when food safety is difficult to measure.

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