

# Farm to Table and Back to Farm: Food Recalls, Genomics and Tracing

#### **Speakers**

Greg Thompson, Associate General Counsel/Chief Food Law Counsel, General Mills
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Mark Kaster, Partner, Dorsey & Whitney, Moderator

### **Materials**

Program PowerPoint Presentation



# How are Food Companies Managing Food Safety Risks

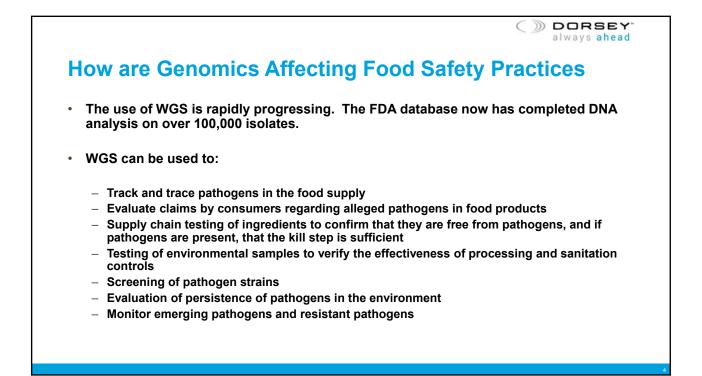
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- FSMA
- Preventive Controls/GMPs
- Internal Policies and Procedures
- Quality Controls and Testing
- Sanitation Practices
- Pack and Hold Procedures
- Hot Rooms
- Environmental and Product Testing / Swabathons
- Periodic Third Party Audits
- Periodic Compliance Assessment
- Supply Chain Assessments

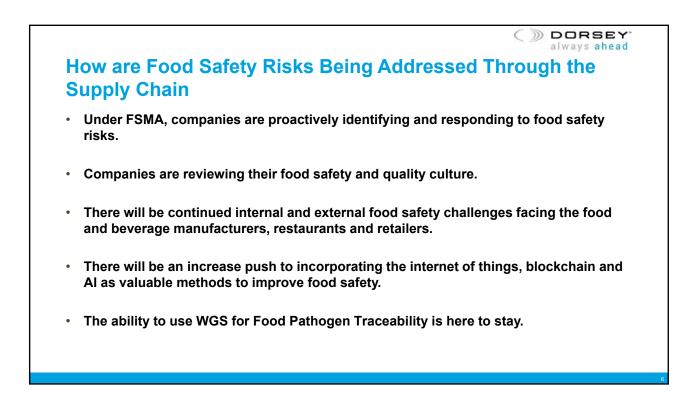
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## What is Whole Genome Sequencing

- Whole Genome Sequencing is a relatively new and now inexpensive method of revealing the complete DNA make-up of a pathogen.
- FDA is using WGS to perform basic foodborne pathogen identification during foodborne illness breakouts.
- An isolated pathogen taken from a clinical sample can be reliably linked back to a geographic location and tracking down the source.
- The FDA is working with public health officials and the CDC to build a genomic reference database called Genome Trakr that can be used to help identify and understand the source of foodborne illnesses.



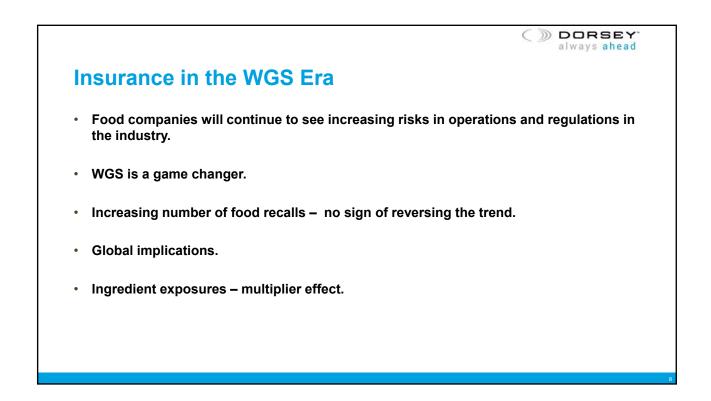
### ( ) DORSEY always ahead WGS – Legal Risks WGS is a powerful tool. Public Health officials see it as a method to rapidly respond to foodborne illness • outbreaks. One test yields information about serotype, resistance, virulence, etc. ٠ WGS could be used against the food industry and from a legal liability perspective • might be used to impute "knowledge" of a systemic problem. WGS could also cause a problem you thought was long closed to be reopened, presenting liability risks years later. How the WGS tool will be used and the legal ramifications are still playing out. •



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# **Common Challenges**

- Costs reduction and margin efficiencies vs risk management and risk mitigation.
- Capital costs for food safety improvements.
- Innovation.
- Recall management.
- Supply chain controls.
- Changing market demands.



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### **Current Recall Insurance Options**

The insurance market has tools and policies to help protect against the potential risks associated with food product recalls. As WGS continues to develop, companies need to consider the potential for recall events to impair a company's financial position. The risks are ever-present for the unwary.

While the recall insurance market is changing, current tools include:

- First and Third Party Recall Costs
- Replacement Costs
- Brand Rehabilitation
- Loss of Profits
- Third Party Financial Costs

