

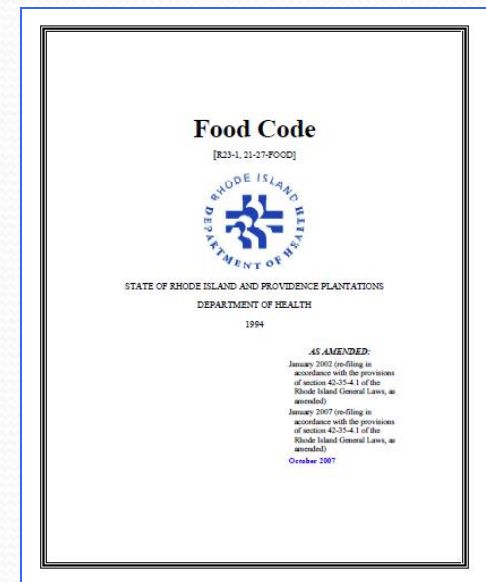
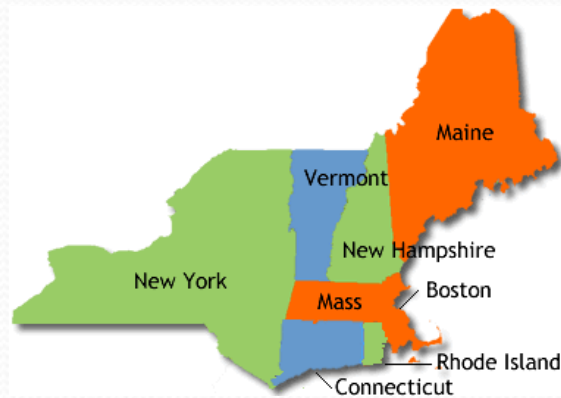
Voluntary National Retail Food
Regulatory Program Standards
in Rhode Island

Past Present Future

Ernest Julian, Ph.D.

Rhode Island

- Smallest state was 1st to implement Food Code in 1994



Food Protection



- State Level - No Local Health Departments
- Population is > 1 million
- Over 7,000 retail food establishments

Retail Program Licenses

- > 7000 Retail Establishment include:
 - Restaurants
 - Markets
 - Health Care Food Services
 - Cafeterias
 - Food Trucks
 - Temporary Event Food Vendors

Retail Program Support

- 2010 Outbreak with 3 deaths led to 4 auditors for 9 months
 - Found insufficient staffing based on Retail Standards
- Hired 12 additional inspectors + 8 additional staff
- Coincided w/ Department QI Initiative
- Creation of Dashboard to track metrics

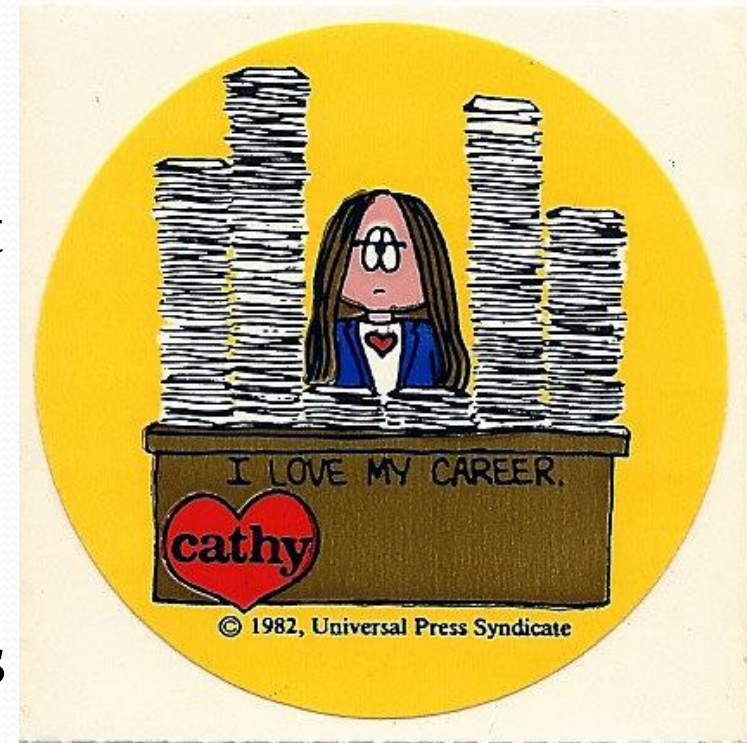
Retail Standards Timeline

- 2003 RI enrolled VNRFRRPS
- 2004 Self Assessment Completed
- 2012 Applied for VNRFRRPS funding
- Awarded and Started 9-1-2012



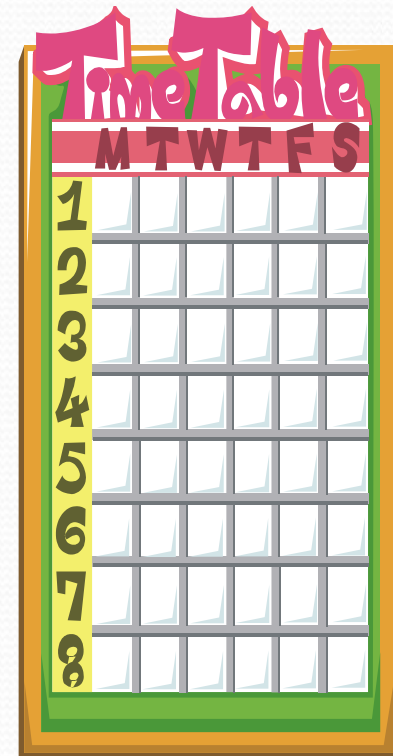
Initial Challenges

- Writing the Grant
 - Conducting self assessment
 - Developing strategic plan
 - Constructing budget
- Getting through era commons and grants.gov



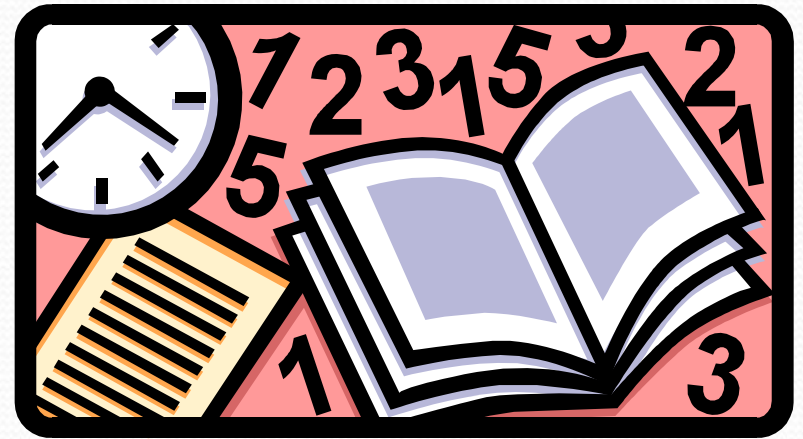
Initial Outcomes

- Identified gaps and areas for improvement
- Developed measurable goals
- Established timelines to get work done



Challenges with Grant Award

- Hiring staff
- Competing Priorities
- Documenting everything



Year 1 Outcomes



- New position created for budget & report writing
- Existing Policies & Procedures Reviewed
- Data collected for each Standard
- Team created for QI, training, evaluation

Continuing Challenges

- Integration of work and leveraging of resources
 - 8 Grants/contracts
 - VNRFRPS, FDA inspection contract, MFRPS, RRT, FSMA (Recall), EHS-Net, Beaches, Summer Foods
 - 3 Cooperative Programs
 - Retail, Dairy, Shellfish
 - Manufactured Foods Program

Ongoing Benefits

- All work including grants became aligned
- Used Crosswalks to Leverage Resources
- Staff Training Improved
- Best Practices are being implemented
- Relationships are better (partners)



Source:
wikipedia.com

Word to the Wise – Share!

- Work with FDA Retail Specialist
- Collaborate with other States
- “Don’t Reinvent the Wheel”!
- Use Standards to Justify Needed Resources

