

Issue 5, 2020

AMA ACHIEVES HACCP CERTIFICATION



AMA Officers at their packaging laboratory at the AMA Office in Nausori

The Agricultural Marketing Authority produces or packages edible goods, this the highest standard of food safety (AMA) now is compliant with prompted the AMA to pursue HACCP international standards under the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification.

Due to food safety being a serious concern for any manufacturer that Certified trademark aims to achieve

Certification to ensure its processes were compliant with international standards.

The Food Operations HACCP

and quality outcomes across the food industry through:

Auditing - Independent audits, improving confidence in food safety and HACCP systems,

- Providing Training the foundation for the development of a food safety system,
- Certification Providing confidence for shareholders, managers, and customers, and
- Re-Certification audits will be conducted under the requirements of the nominated standards.
- HACCP Australia identifies and manages hazards, reduces the risks of food contamination events through the development, implementation, and ongoing operation of comprehensive HACCP based Food Safety Programmes.

Suppliers to the food industry can have their products endorsed as food safe under HACCP Australia guidelines, providing a strong marketing platform to the food safetyconscious sector of the industry.

The Board of the Agricultural Marketing Authority and the Chief Executive Officer of the AMA - Mr. Alvin Sharma have heaped praises on the outstanding efforts of the hardworking staff, who persevered and ensured that the AMA was HACCP certified.

"We are proud of our team at the AMA and appreciate the tremendous improvement made in our processes to reach this level", said Mr. Sharma.

"This is a stepping stone to even further improvements which will be made within the Quality Management Systems at the AMA, to achieve further international accreditation in the future. Our customers can now be reassured that our processes and procedures now comply with international standards," he added.

Meanwhile, HACCP Australia's Senior Project Manager Mr. David Haberfield conveyed his congratulatory message to the staff and management of AMA for their improving efforts to comply with international standards.

"Congratulations to your team on all of the work that has been done. You have all come a long way and many improvements have been made during the journey. Your key goal is to now maintain the systems and standards that have been achieved," said Mr. Haberfield.

In addition to the HACCP Certification, the Agricultural Marketing Authority is also accredited with the USFDA Certification, which allows the AMA to export to the United States of America as well.

FACTS ON LEPTOSPIROSIS



related work.

How could I get infected?

People get infected by contact with animal urine or water/mud/food which has been contaminated by infected urine. The bacteria can survive in soil or water for weeks, even months.

Rats, dogs, cats, cattle, pigs, horses and mongooses can carry and spread infection but some animals may have no symptoms of the disease.

Cattle owners - Cattle with leptospirosis sometimes abort in the last trimester or you might notice a sudden drop in milk production in a large number of your milking cows.

How do people get infected? The bacteria get into your body through cuts/scratches or broken skin or through the eyes, mouth or nose. Drinking contaminated water can also cause infection. It is unusual for leptospirosis to be spread from one • person to another.

animals live especially rats, mice, mongoose etc.

Working in forests

How serious is it?

Without treatment, Leptospirosis can lead to kidney damage, meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord), liver failure, respiratory distress, and even death.

If you or anyone you know has any of the above symptoms, you should seek urgent medical attention at your nearest healthcare facility.

Early treatment by a Doctor is key to preventing complications and deaths. Any cattle abortions should be reported to your locality officers and veterinarians of the Ministry of Agriculture for further investigation.

How do I protect myself and others?



Ministry of Agriculture staff during the Leptospirosis, Typhoid, Dengue and Diarrhoea (LTDD) cleanup campaign at Nauluvatu Settlemer

What is it?

Leptospirosis is a disease caused by bacteria which live in the kidneys and genitals of many types of animals. Leptospirosis can affect both humans and animals.

What are the signs and symptoms in • people?

Leptospirosis usually starts with flulike symptoms. Symptoms usually start within 5-14 days, but can appear as soon as 2 days, or up to 30 days after contact with the bacteria. It can cause a wide range of symptoms, but many of these can be mistaken Who is most at risk?

for other diseases. In addition,

symptoms at all.

Symptoms include:

- High fever
- Headache
- Chills
- Muscle aches
- Vomiting
- Jaundice (yellow skin and eyes)
- Red eves
- Abdominal Pain
- Diarrhoea
- Rash

Anyone can get Leptospirosis, but affected people who do non-animal

some infected persons may have no some are more at risk due to their location and their work in Fiji. The cvclone season also increases the risk of Leptospirosis due to higher rainfall and flooding.

Some examples of workers at risk:

- Farmers
- Mine workers
- Crop farmers
- Slaughterhouse workers
- Fish workers
- Dairy farmers
- Military personnel

Please note the outbreak in January 2019 in the Central Division has also

You can get it while:

- Wading in flood waters
- Playing in rivers or lakes
- Hunting
- Gardening in farm soil, working with crops
- Walking barefoot in paddocks or gardens
- Touching sick animals
- Eating or drinking contaminated food or water
- Smoking without washing your hands after animal contact
- Cleaning out sheds where

- Avoiding wading/swimming in waters that may be contaminated with animal urine, especially flood waters.
- Wearing protective clothing and footwear when working with livestock.
- Separating households from livestock e.g. through the use of fences/pens.
- Regular household cleaning.
- Getting rid of rats in the household.
- Keeping your food and eating/ cooking utensils away from rats and pets
- Washing fruits and vegetables.
- Take care during milking of cows to ensure urine does not splash into eyes or mouth.







Fiji Agriculture



