United States Department of Agriculture

Knowledge transfer:

Engaging with

stakeholders



What is a stakeholder?

Nho are your stakeholders?

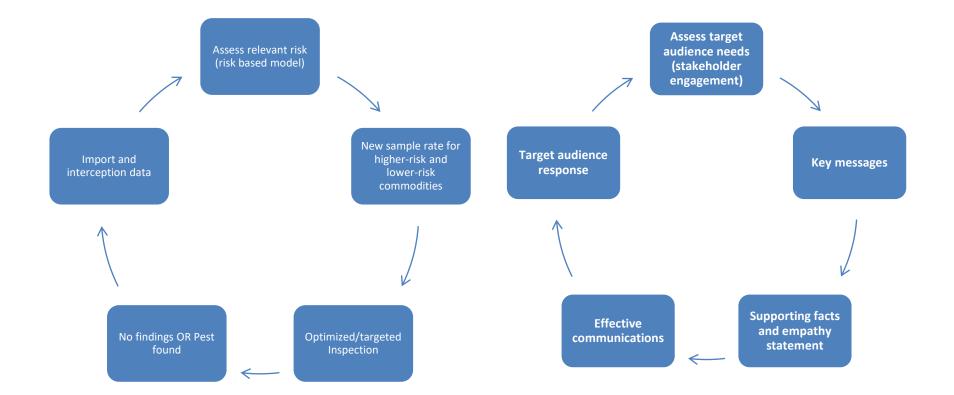
What are the benefits of engagement?

At the CORE of communicating Risk Based Sampling:

- Find out what people care about
- Continually stay engaged with stakeholders
- Use ongoing learning and feedback to refine your communications



Similar feedback loops



Step 1 – Form a Team

Assemble a team that represents various aspects of the rollout of Risk Based Sampling.

Each of these team members have special skills and they should work cooperatively to create the messages that share the story of RBS in the best way possible.

Step 2 – Identify Stakeholders & Their Questions

- Who is affected, interested and influential?
- What would they want to know?

Step 3 – Prepare Messages

- Brainstorm write everything down, then eliminate and focus
- Messages should address:
 - What people should know about the issue
 - What you want them to know regardless of the questions asked
 - What you would put in your opening statement if you were giving a presentation
- Helps you stay on message like a port in a storm



Message Map

Question or Concern		Map No.	Subject
Stakeholder	Category	Likely conditions for use	Date

Key Message 1	Key Message 2	Key Message 3
Supporting Fact 1-1	Supporting Fact 1-2	Supporting Fact 1-3
Supporting Fact 2-1	Supporting Fact 2-2	Supporting Fact 2-3
Supporting Fact 3-1	Supporting Fact 3-2	Supporting Fact 3-3

Empathy Statement

 Could be one of your key messages or an additional introductory statement

Showing you acknowledge and care at the beginning makes you more credible

Step 4 – Review

- Have your messages reviewed
 - within the team,
 - among teams, and
 - by other individuals within the organization
- Cross-check documents and facts
- Test message with partners

Step 5 – Involve Partners



Distribute message maps to the appropriate partners and collaborators *prior* to using them.

Step 6 – Prepare the Messenger

Practice, practice, practice

Step 7 – Use the Maps

Used to support a variety of communications efforts: staff training, media interviews, factsheets, information forums/exchanges, public meetings, web and social media – and your own elevator speech!

Takeaways

- Find out what people care about
- Continually stay engaged with your stakeholders
- Use ongoing learning and feedback
- Use message mapping





An Opportunity for NAPPO

- Embrace a full spectrum of stakeholder engagement processes to ensure RBS programs and policies are supported and developed through the consideration of views and inputs from ALL stakeholders.
- Create an expert working group around communications and stakeholder engagement to support Risk Based Sampling rollouts and harmonize messaging, resources, and tools.

Remember...

People don't cooperate because you <u>make</u> them understand. They cooperate because they <u>feel</u> understood.