

# This is the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA)

ESCCA – Svalbard 3. – 5. July 2013

Karina Kaupang, Chief regional officer

# Norwegian Food Safety Authority



Norwegian Agricultural  
Inspection Service

SNT

Norwegian Food  
Control Authority



Norwegian Animal  
Health Authority



Directorate of Fisheries  
- Seafood inspectorate

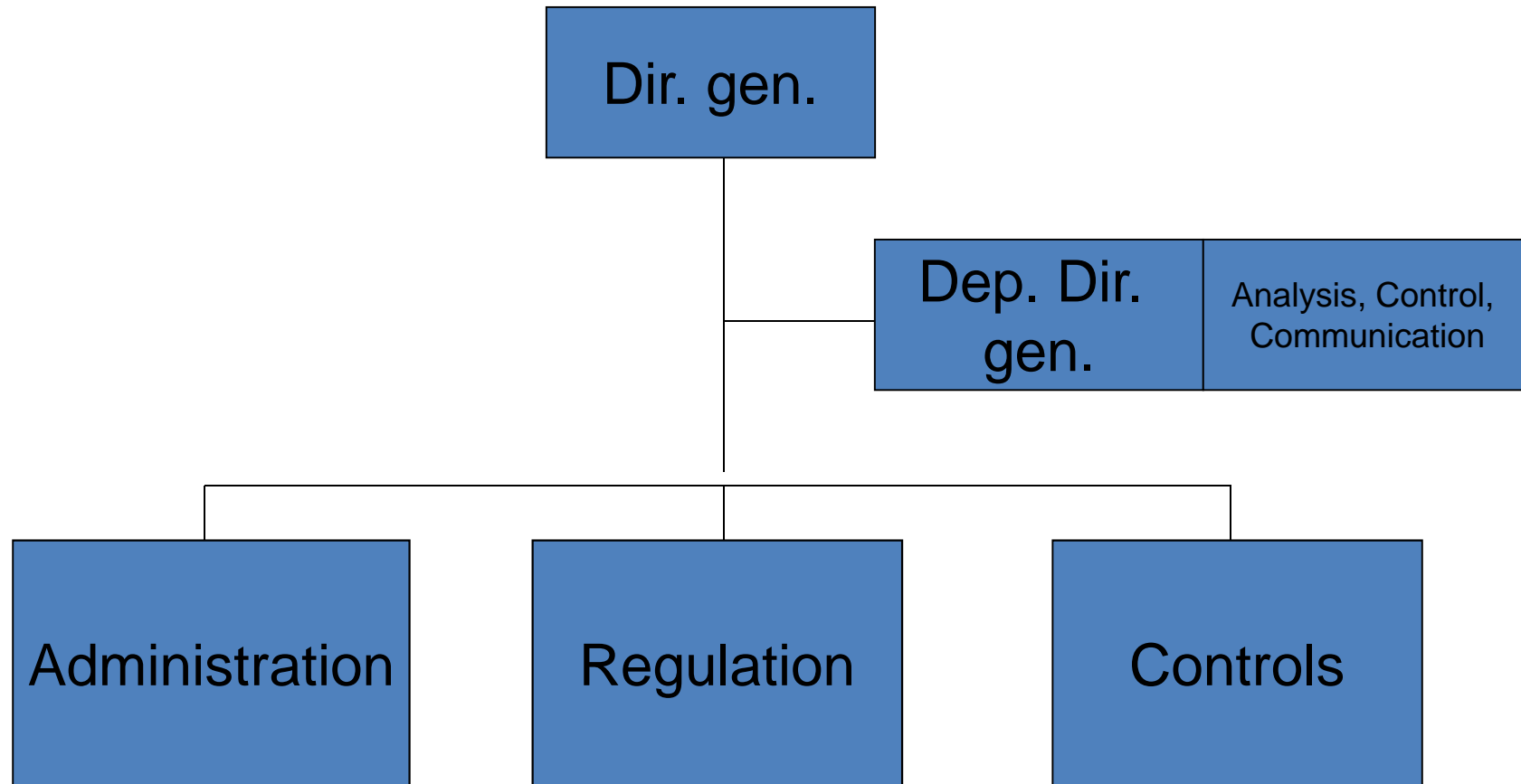
Involving  
approximately 1500  
employees!

Næringsmiddeltilsynet  
for Midt-Rogaland IKS

89 Municipal Food Control Authorities

# Norwegian Food Safety Authority

Organisation of Head Office



# Norwegian Food Safety Authority

Organisation

**Cover the whole country and the full food chain**

**Head-office with 3 departments**

**270 emp.**

**8 regional offices**

**120 emp.**

**52 District offices**

**920 emp.**

# Norwegian Food Safety Authority



**Reporting to one ministries for human protection and to two ministries for economic development**

## Equal opportunities

- 50% of the top leaders of the NFSA are women
- 52% of the middle managers at the NFSA are women
- 5.4 % of the employees are of immigrant origin

# Legislation administered by the NFSA

## **The Food Safety Act:**

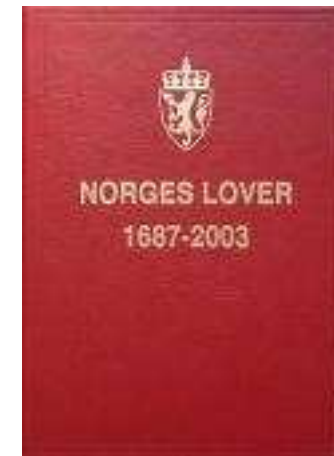
is designed to guarantee healthy, safe food and safe drinking water for consumers, promote health, regulate environmentally friendly production and prevent the spread of animal and plant diseases

## **Act concerning the welfare of animals:**

is designed to ensure ethical keeping of animals and fish

## **Act relating to cosmetic products and other body care products, etc.:**

is designed to ensure that cosmetics and body care products safeguard human and animal health



## The NFSA also administers:

- Act relating to veterinarians and other animal health personnel
- Act relating to the plant breeder's right
- Act relating to livestock breeding

Regulations appurtenant to these acts lay down more detailed provisions.

The majority of the Norwegian acts and regulations are included in the EEA Agreement and constitute common European rules.

## The core tasks of the NFSA

- Procuring information and analysing current conditions
- Regulatory and legislative work
- Supervision, control and inspections
- Communicating and advising



## Regulatory and legislative work

- The majority of the regulations are based on legislation acts which Norway is bound by under the EEA Agreement
- Continuous development of existing and new regulations
- The aim is to ensure that Norwegian regulations are appropriate and user-friendly
- Seek input from our stakeholders in the regulatory process at an early stage in the process when the opportunity to exert influence is greatest
- Transparent procedures, all hearings are published on our website

## Regulatory and legislative work - arenas in which the NFSA is active

The NFSA has reliable systems for following up on EEA obligations, notification of regulations, drawing up and updating EEA notifications.

### **Nordic Region**

- The Nordic Council of Ministers' Committee of Senior Officials for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry Executive Committee (EK-FJLS Executive) and associated working groups

## Regulatory and legislative work - arenas in which the NFSA is active (more)

- Europe
  - Relevant standing committees within the EU (SCFCAH)
  - Relevant working groups and expert groups within the EEA
  - EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization)
  - Council of Europe (47 Member States within Europe; promotes co-operation on issues such as human rights and legal standards and the rule of law in all countries of Europe)
- International co-operation
  - Codex Alimentarius (Food Safety, under WHO/FAO)
  - OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health )
  - IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention)
  - UPOV (International union for the protection of new varieties of plants)
  - OIV (international organisation of vine and wine)

# The NFSA's supervision, control and inspections

The NFSA is required to supervise compliance with national and regulations and international directives. Inspections are planned so as to have the greatest possible general preventive effect.

The district offices are to deploy resources where they believe the probability and consequences of any non-compliance is greatest. This is referred to as risk-based control.

The NFSA conducts scheduled inspections, inspections following unwanted incidents and in response to notices of concern.

## Who do we supervise and inspect?

- Primary producers
- Food industry and small-scale producers
- Importers
- Food retailers
- Catering establishments

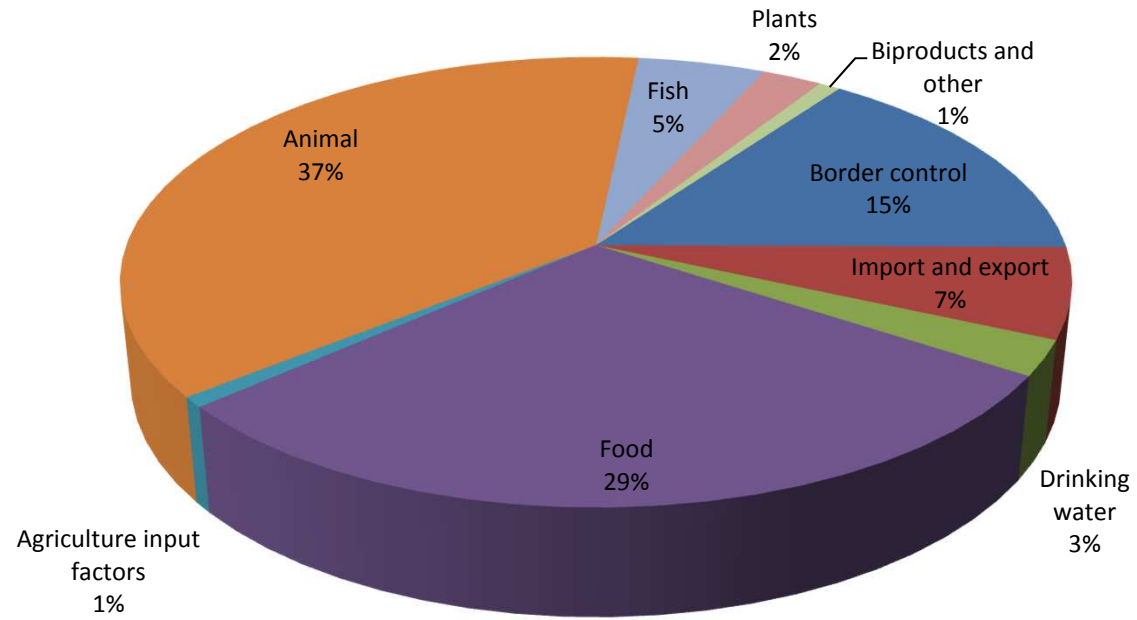


## We also supervise:

- Vets and other animal health personnel
- People who keep animals (farmers and private individuals)
- Cosmetics and body care products
- Sales of medicinal products outside pharmacies



## Total number of controls in percent



# The NFSA's contingency planning

- The NFSA has contingency for:
  - its own area of control
  - civil protection and defence
  - nuclear and radiation protection
  - other agencies' preparedness (participant/advisor)



## The NFSA and research institutes

The NFSA does not conduct its own research, but commissions scientific research institutions to perform contract research on its behalf.

- The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety performs risk assessments on matters relating to food safety. We publish both commissioned reports and the Committee's final reports on our website.
- The NFSA also has arrangements with other institutions, among:
  - Norwegian Veterinary Institute,
  - Norwegian Institute of Public Health,
  - Bioforsk (Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research)
  - Kimen såvarelaboratorium (grain and seed research),
  - LabNett (analysis and laboratory services) Eurofins (testing and support services).

# Events in 2011 (January – June)

Rabies discovered in an Arctic Fox in Svalbard. Mainland Norway is free of this zoonosis, which occurs sporadically in Svalbard.



The NFSA states that next year, farmers can face restrictions on outdoor grazing, to prevent losses due to wild carnivores.

In spite of coordinated treatment for salmon lice in fish farming facilities this spring, wild salmon smolt were exposed to high levels of lice on their way from the rivers to the sea.



January

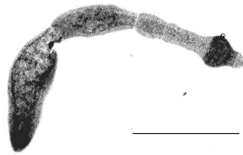
February

March

April

May

June



*Echinococcus multilocularis* discovered in foxes in Sweden. This parasite can cause grave disease in humans, and NFSA intensifies monitoring of foxes in the border areas.



Harald Gjein is appointed Director General of the Norwegian Food Safety Authority.

Some 50 people die from food-borne E. coli-infections in Europe. Vegetables from different countries face suspicion, but eventually the EU names fenugreek seeds from Egypt as the most probable source of contamination.



## Events in 2011 (July – December)

Chemical laboratory tests for algae poisons in shellfish are approved for use, rather than testing on mice.



NIFES reports on low levels of drug residues and other undesirable substances in Norwegian farmed salmon.



The NFSA warns against dietary supplements that are sold as erectile agents. The agents may be very harmful, especially for people with cardiac disease.

July

August

September

October

November

December



Fireblight discovered in Sunnmøre. The disease has spread further north than earlier suspected.

Nordic and Baltic Veterinary Authorities arrange a multiple-day joint simulation exercise in the management of outbreaks of serious contagious animal diseases.



Pancreas disease discovered in several salmon farms in Møre and Romsdal. Measures are implemented to prevent further spread north.

## Safe food – status 2012

- Stable status in the area of foodborne infections
- Limited finds of foreign substances in animal-based food
- Food safety challenges related to contaminants in fish and seafood
- Farmed fish is safe food, according to surveillance
- Limited residues of plant protection agents in fruit and vegetables
- High proportion of the population receives water of consistently high quality. But the wiring is vulnerable



Norway is in a favourable situation compared with many other countries

## Healthy plants, fish and animals – status 2012

- The state of health of Norwegian domestic animal stocks is satisfactory. Fewer than 10 out of 100 notifiable communicable diseases were found in Norway during the last decade.
- Only a few of the plant pests requiring precautions have become established in Norway.
- Salmon lice are still one of the biggest challenges in fish health, even if lice levels in farms on average are now much lower than in previous years



## Ethical keeping of fish and animals – status 2012

- The "alert the authority" button on the NFSA's website has led to an increase in the submitted concern:
  - 6,786 messages were about animal welfare (both pets, horses and primary producing land animals)
- Significant challenges of welfare for sheep grazing.
- The NFSA has strengthened its work with reindeer:
  - Own supervision and better cooperation with the Reindeer Husbandry



## Environment-friendly production – status 2012

- Salmon lice on farmed fish cause concern for fish in the wild. Fish health services should focus on treatment that reduces the further development of resistance.
- Shift towards the use of drugs / substances in plant protection with lower health and environmental risks
- Extreme weather resulted in several authorizations for the use of non-organic ingredients in organic products
- Only a limited number of the plant pests which the European phytosanitary organisation has recommended Member States to institute measures against have so far become established in Norway.



## Conclusions 2012

- The status of the Norwegian Food Safety Authority's supervisory domain is satisfactory, compared both with other countries and with previous years:
  - Food in Norway is safe
  - There is generally a low level of foreign substances in food
  - No findings give grounds for suspecting any illegal medication of animals
  - Plant and animal health is generally satisfactory
  - Fish health is relatively satisfactory, but the salmon lice infestation level is too high
  - The NFSA has increased efforts in the animal welfare area