



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 5/20/15

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### **WELD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT PASSES FDA STANDARDS AUDIT**

WELD COUNTY, CO – The Weld County Board of Commissioners is proud to announce the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment passed an audit for their Retail Food Inspection Program. During this audit the health department met its fifth out of nine FDA Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, which puts Weld County at the forefront of the enrolled jurisdictions in the state of Colorado.

Weld County has passed the following standards:

- Standard 1: Trained regulatory staff
- Standard 3: Inspection program based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Principles
- Standard 4: Uniform inspection program
- Standard 6: Compliance and enforcement
- Standard 7: Industry and community relations

"Meeting these standards is a true representation of the hard-working employees we have at Weld County Government," said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer. "Their dedication has driven the continued achievements in the FDA's program."

"This is a great accomplishment for the health department and we are proud of their work," said Commissioner Coordinator Mike Freeman. "It is important we meet FDA standards in order to provide the best guidance to food establishments when doing an inspection."

The FDA's program standards serve as a guide to regulatory retail food program managers and provide recognition for those programs which meet the standards. Standards are designed to promote active managerial control of the risk factors most commonly associated with foodborne illness in food establishments and to help build a framework to control those risk factors.

"Foodborne illnesses affect millions of people each year," said Dr. Mark Wallace, Director of the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment. "It is important inspectors follow FDA guidelines to identify risk factors and provide guidance to better ensure health and food safety."

For more information about the Weld County Retail Food Program visit [www.weldgov.com](http://www.weldgov.com) and click on the Health and Environment Department tab.

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