

The Market Update section of Food Manufacturing is designed to offer our readers insight toward critical industry trends and issues. We received hundreds of helpful responses to this month's reader survey on Food Security. Please be on the lookout next month for our email survey on Energy Efficiency and let your opinions be heard in the pages of Food Manufacturing!

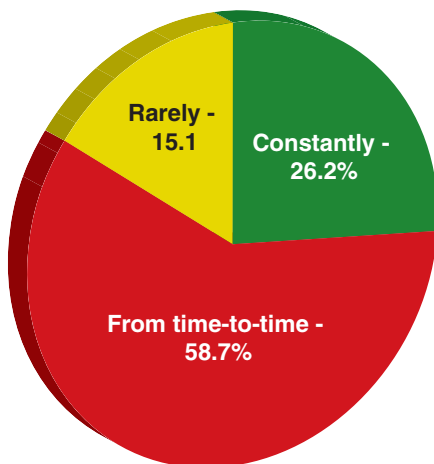
Food security continues to be a prime food industry concern. A recent survey of *Food Manufacturing* readers revealed, however, that 26 percent of respondents constantly worry about food security issues, which is down from last January's 37 percent. Perhaps this can be viewed as a positive reflection on our nation's food security efforts and an increasingly confidence in the industry's ability to keep food safe. The industry's efforts are clear, as 61 percent of respondents report altering plant security methods moderately since September 11, 2001, with 22 percent reporting drastic changes.

In fact, 81 percent of respondents report having an on-premise director/coordinator in their plants to evaluate and improve plant security, while 14 percent rely on third-party auditors. Numerous precautions are being taken in order to maintain food security, including:

- Material safety date sheets (MSDSs) to keep track of cleaning chemicals – 91%
- Restrictions on visitor access – 87%
- Perimeter lighting – 86%
- Keycard entry – 74%
- Employee background checks – 71%
- Screening for contamination – 71%
- Surveillance cameras – 70%
- Routine mock recalls – 62%
- Method of accounting for missing stock – 56%
- Software that automates the recall process – 31%

In a lean economy, where companies

How often do you worry about food security issues?

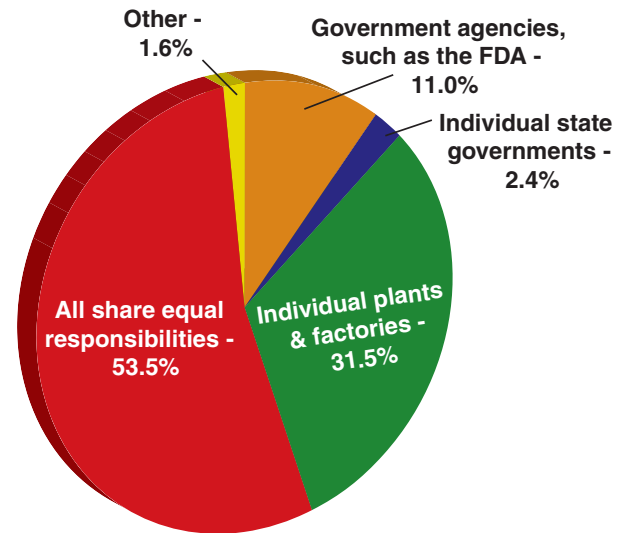


choose to spend their money can be a good indication of their priorities. Of surveyed plants, 33 percent anticipate that their companies will spend over \$100,000 on food security in 2009. In addition, 56 percent estimate that their companies have spent over \$100,000 per plant on security improvements since the events of September 11, 2001.

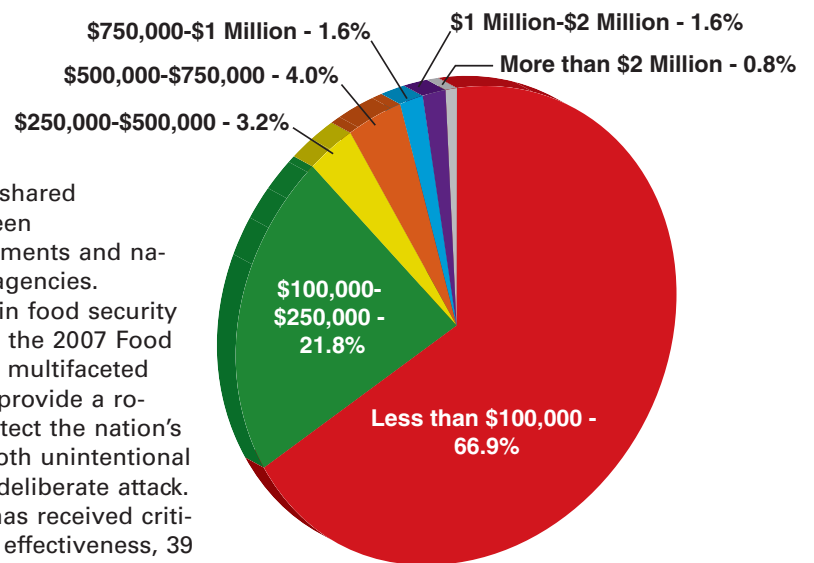
Numerous food industry recalls in recent years have stimulated much talk in regards to the role of the FDA/USDA in food security. While the FDA and USDA currently have a broad authority over food security issues, 40 percent of food industry respondents feel that these government agencies should be granted additional, more specific legislative authorities. However, when it comes to the question of who should be most responsible for food security in the food industry, 32 percent feel the responsibility should fall on individual plants, while 54 percent advocate a shared responsibility between plants, state governments and national government agencies.

One positive step in food security made by the FDA is the 2007 Food Protection Plan. The multifaceted plan is intended to provide a robust strategy to protect the nation's food supply from both unintentional contamination and deliberate attack. Although the plan has received criticism in terms of its effectiveness, 39 percent of respondents feel that elements of the Food Protection Plan have noticeably improved the level of food security in their individual plants, and 51 percent feel that the plan has noticeably improved the level of food security in the entire U.S.

Who do you feel should be most responsible for food security in the food industry?



Approximately how much will your company spend on plant security in 2009?



Hopefully, through continued combined efforts within the food industry, achieving landmark food security will gradually become less of an industry concern and more of an industry accomplishment. ♦