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ICS Computerized Inspection Programs

To meet its consumer protection, promotion of equity in the marketplace, and animal and human health safety goals, the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Division of Inspection and Consumer Services (ICS) uses several Information Technology programs to maximize inspection resources. Two programs that have been central to this effort are currently undergoing significant redevelopment and enhancement.



The **Field Activity Reporting System (FARS) Program** has been successfully used by ICS inspection staff for over ten years to collect inspection information for several program activities such as scale inspections, package testing to verify net weight and proper labeling, price verification (scan) testing, and egg, feed, and fertilizer inspections.

ICS inspectors enter information into the FARS Program on their laptop computers. Data is transmitted to the ICS office and used to manage work, including the determination of future inspection activities. Data is also used to report progress on division goals.

The FARS Program has enhanced the collection of inspection data. This data is used by the inspection staff in their daily activities and assists the office management staff in decision making. Planned improvements for FARS will make this program even better.

The **Risk-Based Management System (RBMS)** has also been used successfully for over ten years. RBMS helps ICS prioritize the use of inspection resources by focusing on identified problem areas for future inspections.

RBMS assigns a numeric risk value to every regulated firm at the completion of each inspection at that firm. These values range from 0 (no risk) to 6 (high risk – significant violations). Each follow-up inspection results in an additional numeric risk rating. A firm's average risk value is used to determine the frequency and interval of future inspections. Firms with higher risk averages are inspected more often, and those with lower risk averages are visited less frequently.



RBMS has been a vital tool in ICS efforts to maximize the use of inspection resources, by helping ICS more efficiently perform thousands of inspections across the state.

Consumers can expect ICS inspectors to give problem areas more regulatory review and businesses can count on fair and equitable treatment, in part because the use of RBMS helps ICS focus its efforts.

These program improvements allow ICS to meet its goals which are part of the Colorado Dept. of Agriculture's mission "to strengthen and advance Colorado's agriculture industry, ensure a safe, high quality, and sustainable food supply and to protect consumers, the environment, and natural resources."

Click on [ICS Inspection Program](#) for more information. If you have any questions, please call (303) 477-0293.