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ECONOMICS, FOOD INSPECTION POLICIES AND THE ADULTERATION OF FOOD IMPORTS

**Wednesday, January 21, 2015
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Room 101, MCLN**

Abstract

This paper shows the role of economics in the adulteration of food imports. The model explains the economic motives for adulteration as the choice of input quality by exporting firms. One implication is that economic variables can be used to predict adulteration in food imports. The paper uses import refusals data for fish and seafood to empirically verify whether implications from the model hold in practice. Empirical estimates show evidence of a surge in US refusals of fish and seafood (i.e. evidence of an increase in adulteration) in the months following an increase in US import demand because of the closing of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon platform oil spill in 2010.

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