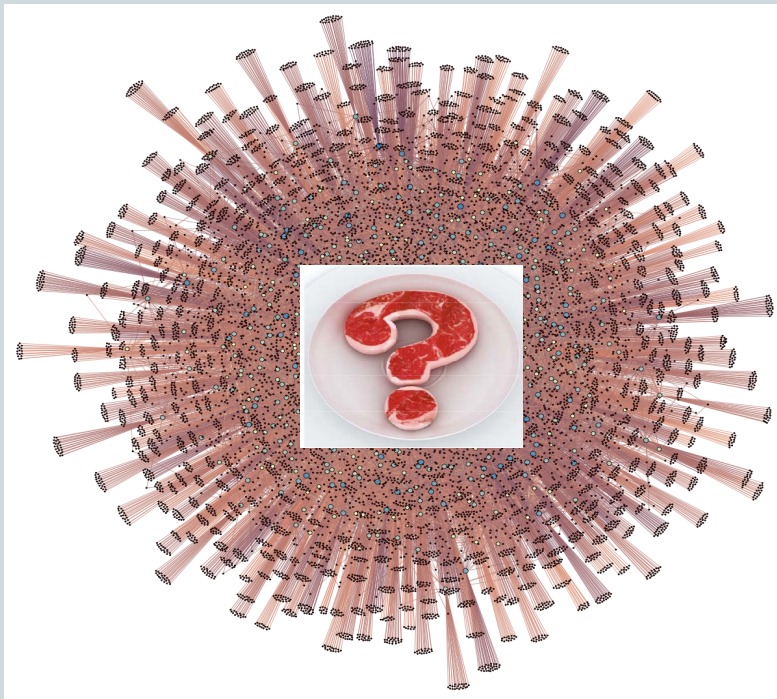


# Modeling Supply Chain System Structure to Trace Sources of Food Contamination: Problem Framing Talk

1



October, 2013

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Engineering Systems Division,  
MIT**

**DOCTORAL COMMITTEE:  
PROF. RICHARD LARSON (Chair)  
DR. STAN FINKELSTEIN  
PROF. CÉSAR HIDALGO**

# Problem Framing: Optimal Search Theory

2

- Bernard Koopman's "Theory of Optimal Search" (Richardson, 1986).
- Anti-submarine warfare problem
  - Search over 3-D space
  - Prior probabilities
  - Bayesian updates
  - "Search effort" a highly nonlinear function of the updated probabilities
- Turned around the war in the North Atlantic (Nunn, 1981).



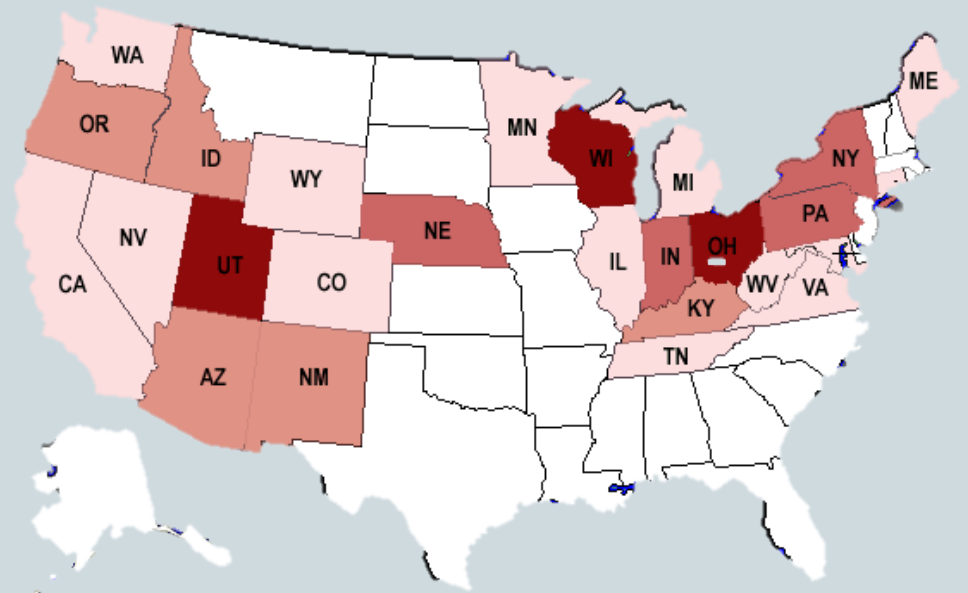
# In 2006 there was an outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 in spinach in the US

3



## Known Impact of 2006 spinach outbreak:

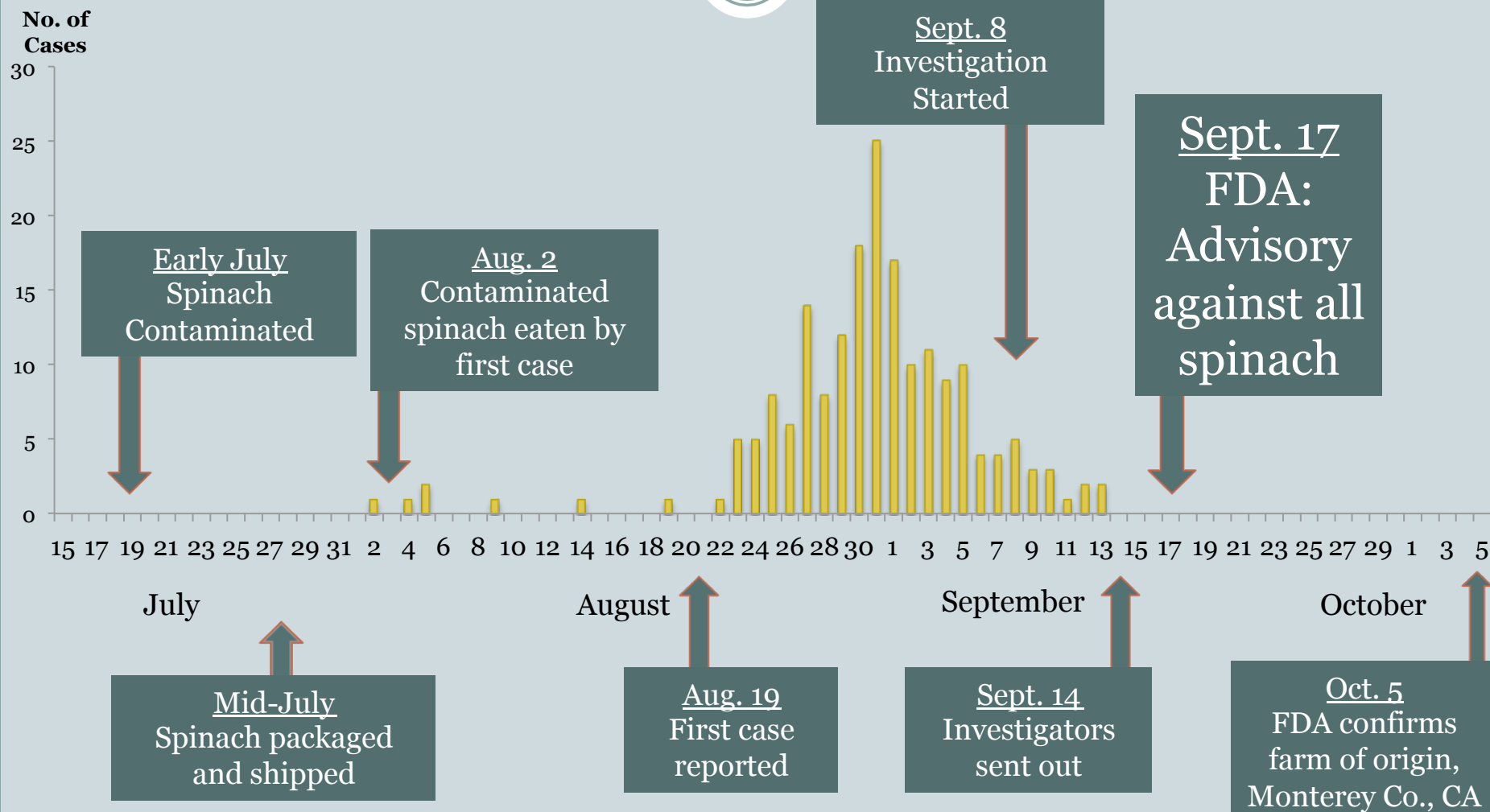
- 276 Illnesses
- 102 Hospitalizations
- 31 People with Hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS)
- 3 Deaths
- 26 States with cases
- \$350 million loss to spinach industry



- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2006a). Ongoing Multi-State Outbreak of Escherichia coli serotype O157:H7 Infections Associated with Consumption of Fresh Spinach. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 55(Dispatch); 1-2. September 26, 2006.  
© Abigail Horn, 2013  
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) (2007). Investigation of an Escherichia coli O157:H7 Outbreak Associated with Dole Pre-Packaged Spinach, Final Report prepared by the California Food Emergency Response Team. March 21, 2007. <http://www.cdph.ca.gov>

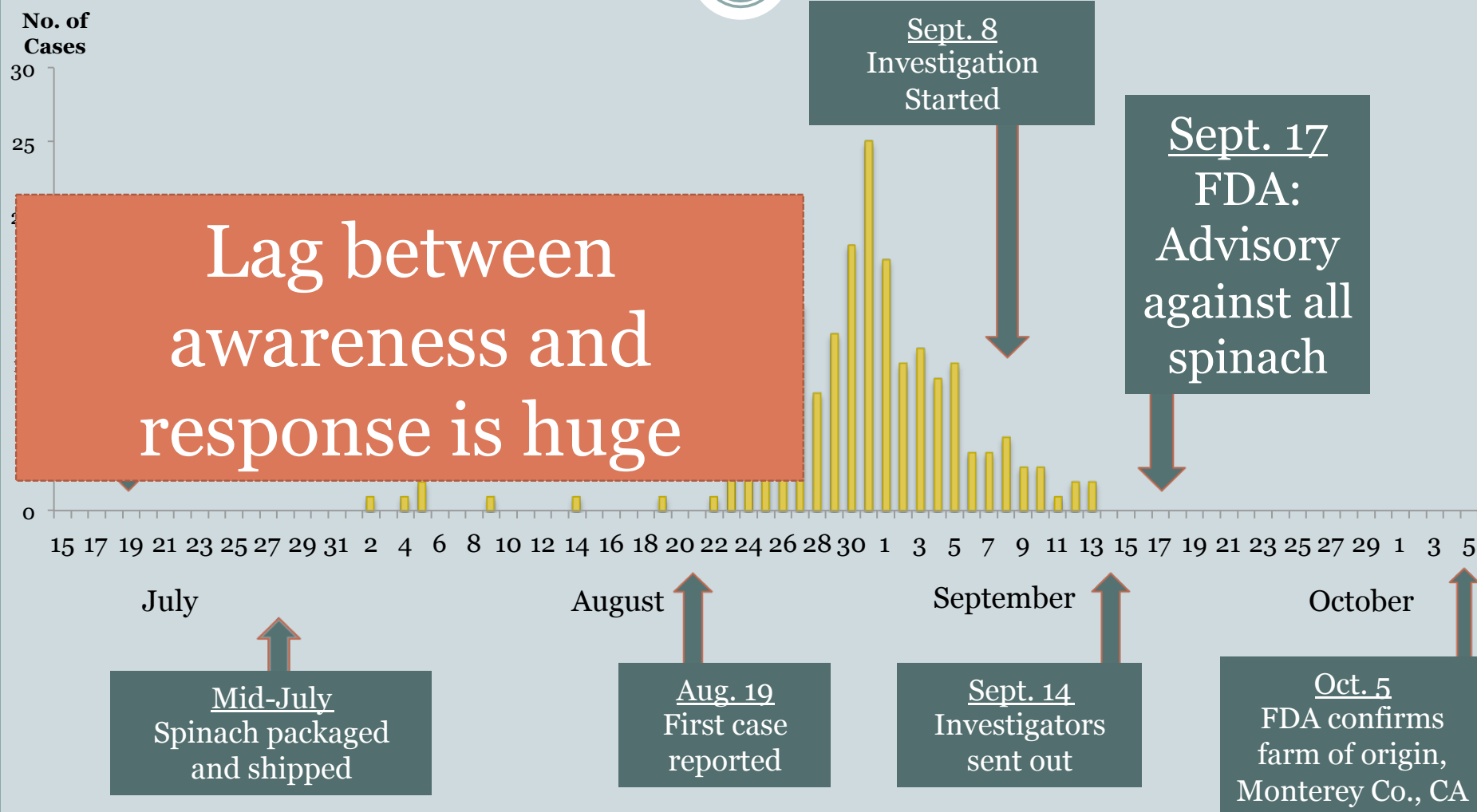
# Could Damage Have Been Prevented?

4



# Could Damage Have Been Prevented?

5



# Outbreak Prevention

6

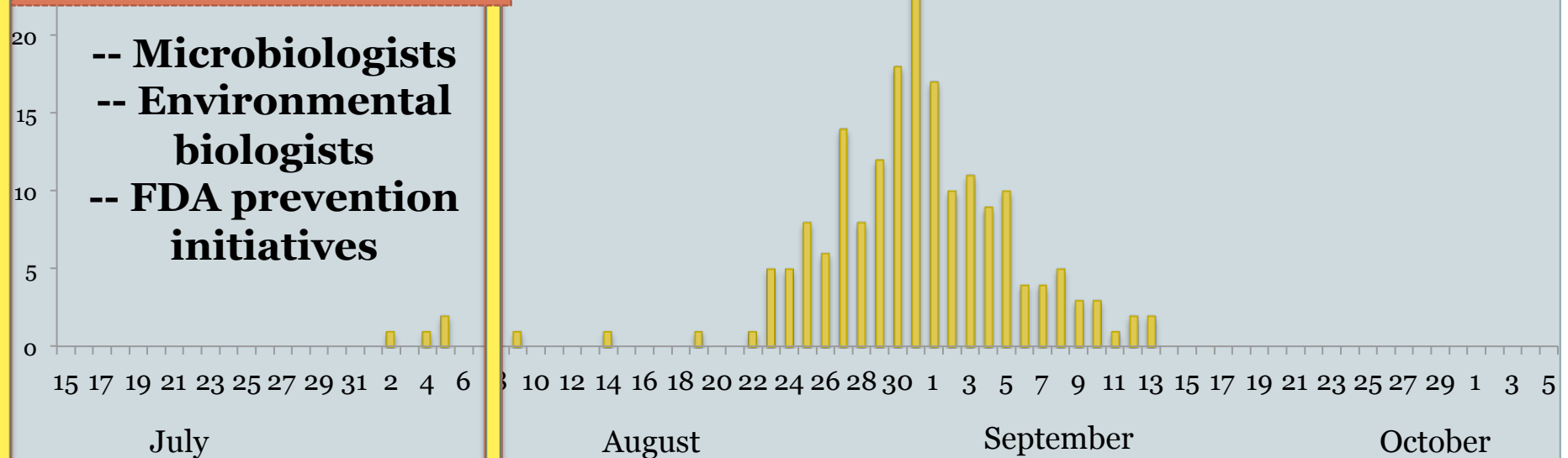
No. of Cases



2011 Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

Working in prevention space:

- Microbiologists
- Environmental biologists
- FDA prevention initiatives



# Outbreak Prevention

7

No. of Cases

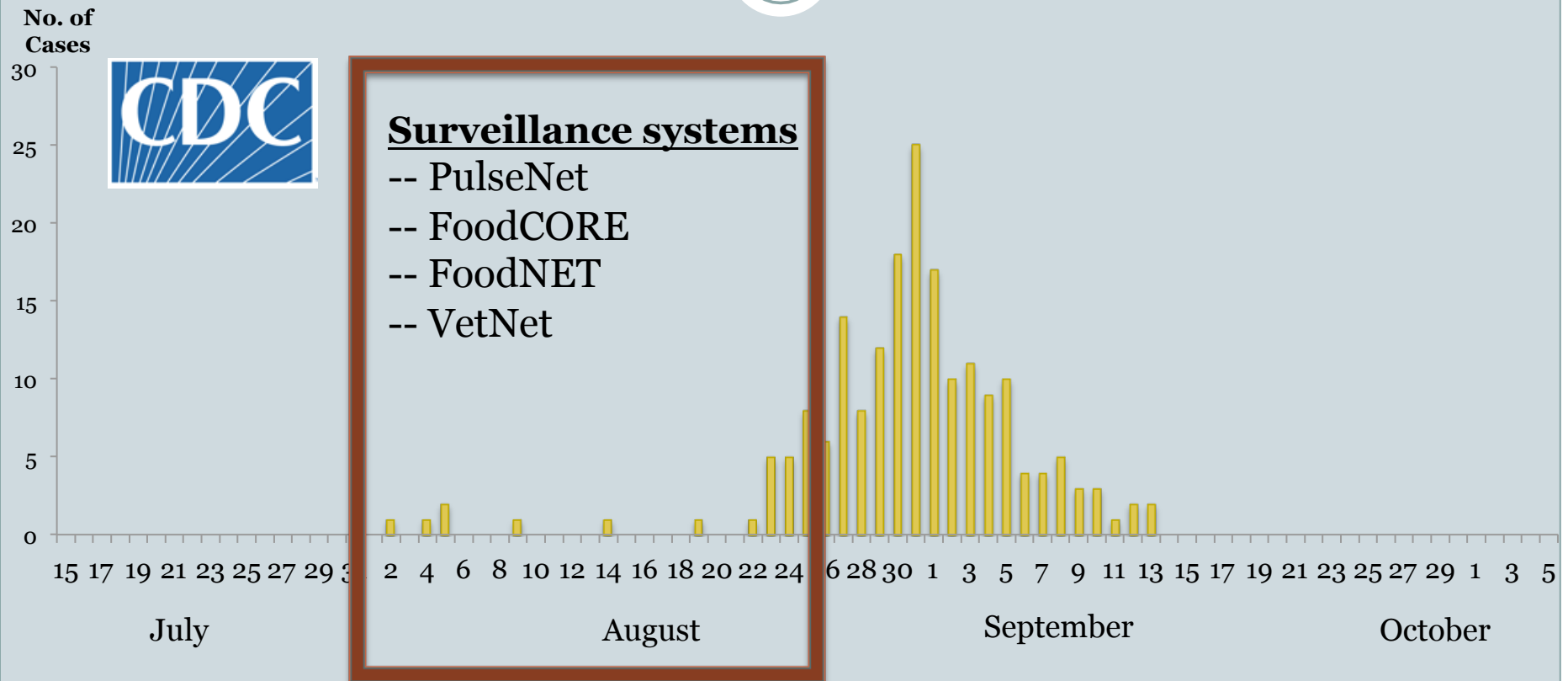
Working in prevention space:

- Microbiologists
- Environmental biologists
- FDA prevention initiatives



# Outbreak Surveillance

8



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2006b). Timeline for Reporting of E. coli Cases. September 19, 2006. <http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/reportingtimeline.htm>



# Annual Impact of Foodborne Disease Outbreaks

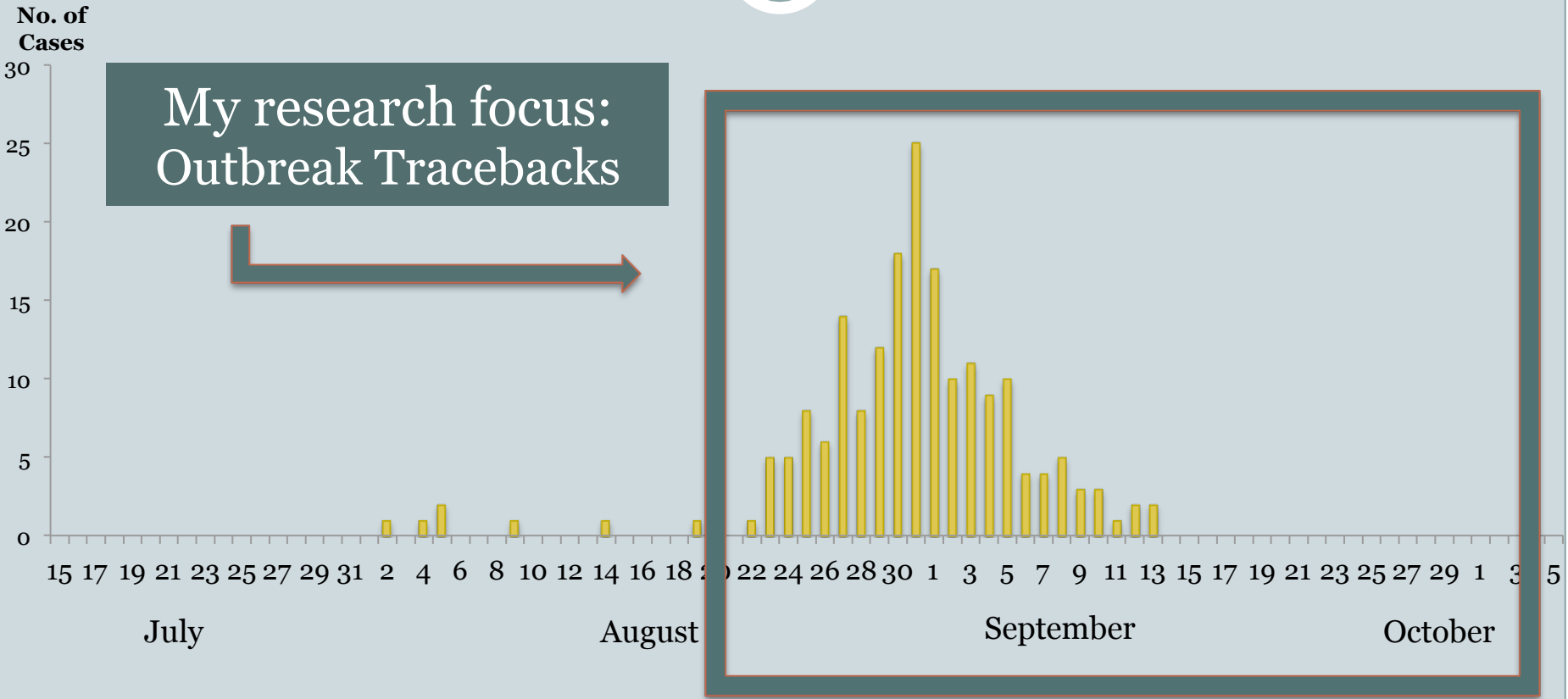
9

**Despite efforts at prevention  
the impact of foodborne disease outbreaks remains high:**

- 48 million illnesses
- 128,000 hospitalizations
- 3000 deaths
- \$77 billion in healthcare costs
- 55% - 65% of identified foodborne illness outbreaks  
**UNSOLVED**

- Osterholm, MT. Foodborne Disease in 2011 — The Rest of the Story. *N Engl J Med* 2011; 364:889-891, March 10, 2011.
- Scharff, R. (2009). Health-related costs from food borne illness in the United States. Retrieved from <http://www.producesafetyproject.org>
- Jennifer B. Nuzzo, Samuel B. Wollner, Ryan C. Morhard, Tara Kirk Sell, Anita J. Cicero, Thomas V. Inglesby. (2013). When Good Food Goes Bad. Strengthening the US Response to Foodborne Disease Outbreak. Final Report: Center for Biosecurity of UPMC.

# Tactical Response to Outbreaks



# Primary Research Question

11

How can the process of tracing the source of an outbreak be improved?

## My Approach:

Model supply chain network structure and make predictions about the sites where contamination is likely to have taken place

# Bayesian Updating Network Approach

12

**Objective:** Identify the highest probability source of contamination in the most efficient manner

**Constraints:** Limited available information

**Investigations occur over the supply chain** →

Leverage what is known about **network structure**

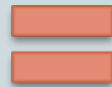


**Information accruing continuously** over time →

Method should allow for **dynamic updating**



**Prior “hypotheses” from expert knowledge; history**



**BAYESIAN UPDATING NETWORK APPROACH**

# Literature Gap

13

## Food safety and network literature

Dupuy et al., 2005; Bertolini et al., 2006;  
Fritz and Schiefer, 2009; Wang et al., 2009,  
Ahumada and Villalobos, 2009;  
Harlander and Sholl, 2007; Beni et al., 2011;  
Hashemi et al. 2012,  
Wein and Liu, 2005;  
Pinior et al., 2012;  
Conrad et al., 2012

Spread

Traceback

## Network literature only

Network domain	References
Disease in human contact networks	Liljeros et al., 2001; Newman, 2002; Pinto et al., 2012
Rumors in social media	Lloyd and May, 2001; Newman et al., 2002; Shah and Zaman, 2011
Water distribution	Tao et al., 2012; Preis and Ostfeld, 2007

# Literature Gap

14

## Food safety and network literature

Dupuy et al., 2005; Bertolini et al., 2006;  
Fritz and Schiefer, 2009; Wang et al., 2009,  
Ahumada and Villalobos, 2009;  
Harlander and Sholl, 2007; Beni et al., 2011;  
Hashemi et al. 2012,  
Wein and Liu, 2005;  
Pinior et al., 2012;  
Conrad et al., 2012

Spread

## Network literature only

Network domain

References

These models cannot be extended to food distribution

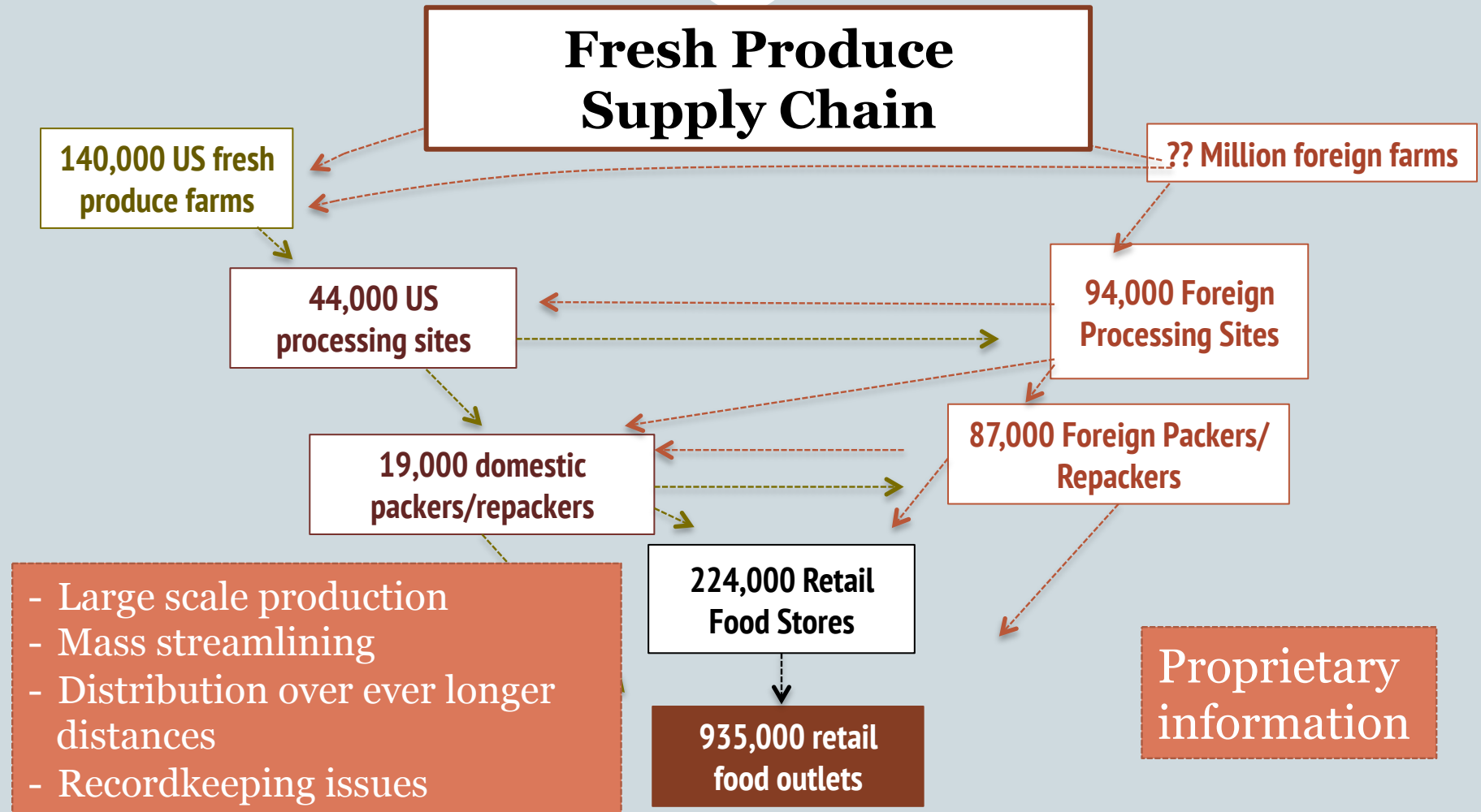
Water distribution

Shah and Zaman, 2011

Tao et al., 2012; Preis and Ostfeld, 2007

# Complexity of Food Distribution

15



# Research Goals and Applications

16

How can the process of tracing the source of an outbreak be improved?

**Task:** Create methodology for tactical, real-time outbreak response

**Application:** Enable public health and emergency preparedness officials to make informed traceback policy decisions

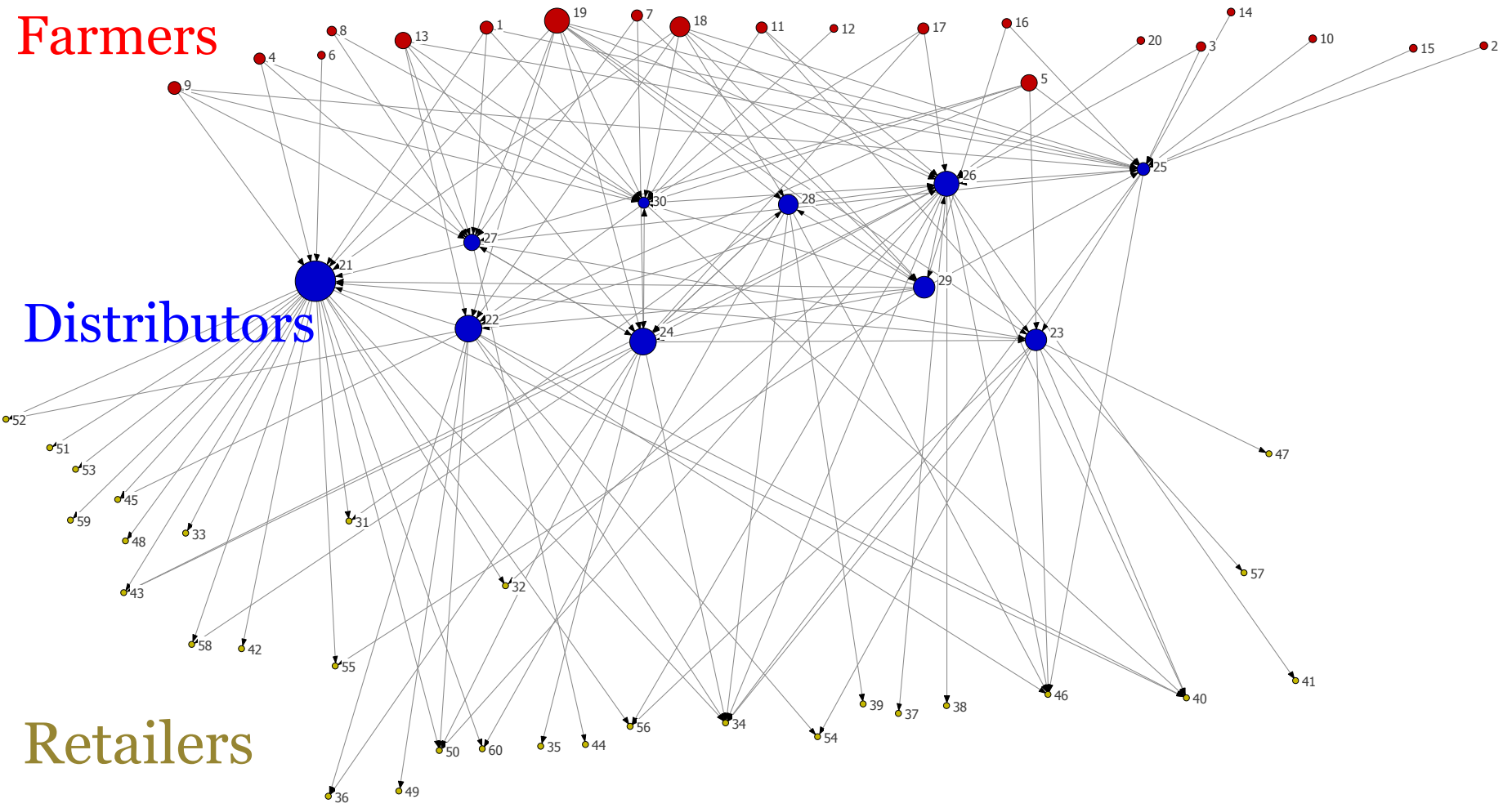
**Task:** Determine how much information about the supply chain is necessary to achieve accurate traceback.

**Application:** Make recommendations for what recordkeeping data the FDA should collect systematically.

I can explore both of these questions using the following framework:



# Modeling Framework



Farmers

Distributors

Retailers

# Modeling Framework

18

Farmers

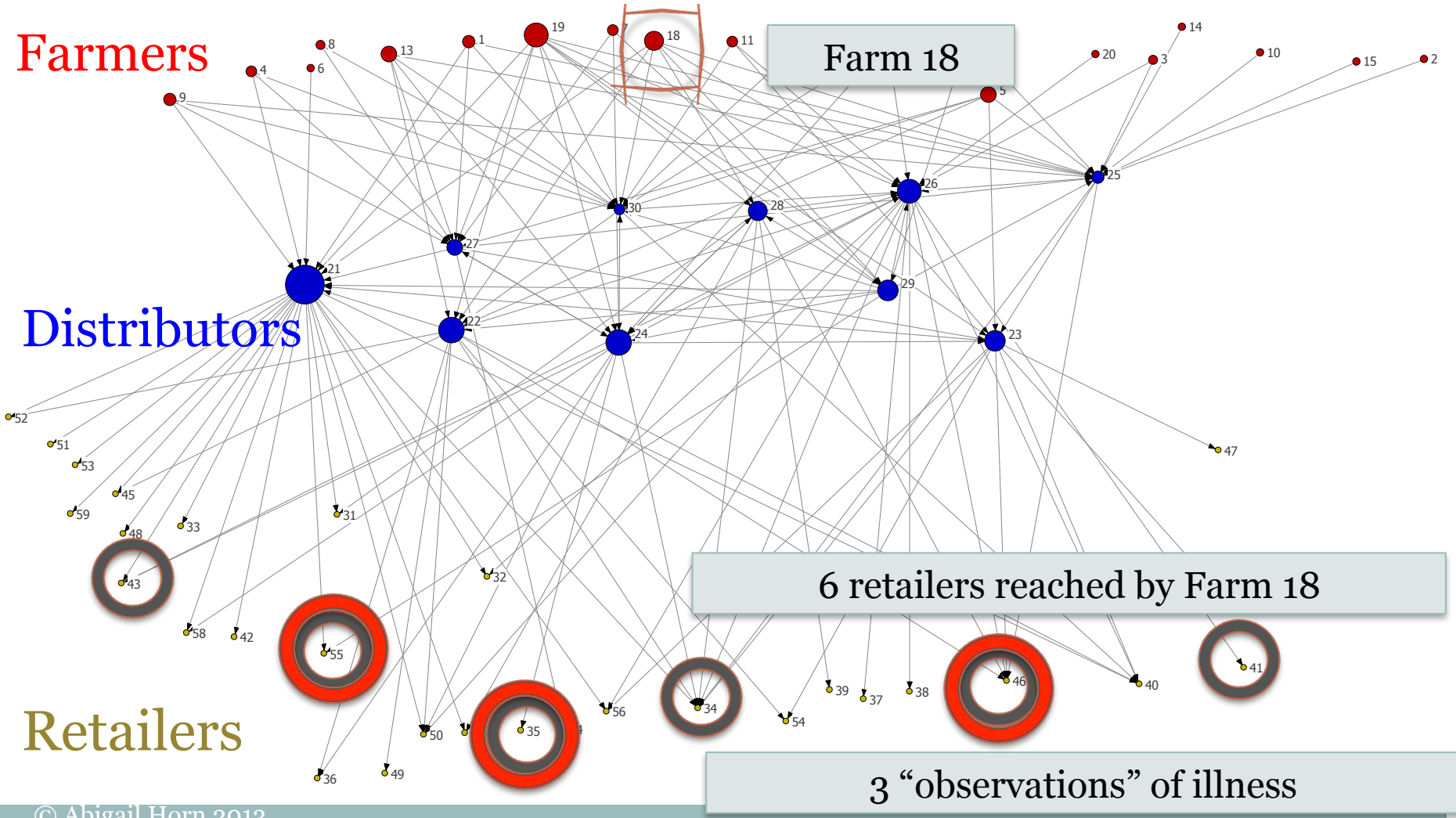
Distributors

## 3-Tiered Network Example

- Represents the network of distribution for a single commodity
- Incorporates key features of the structural properties of food distribution networks

Retailers

# Modeling Framework



Farmers

Farm 18

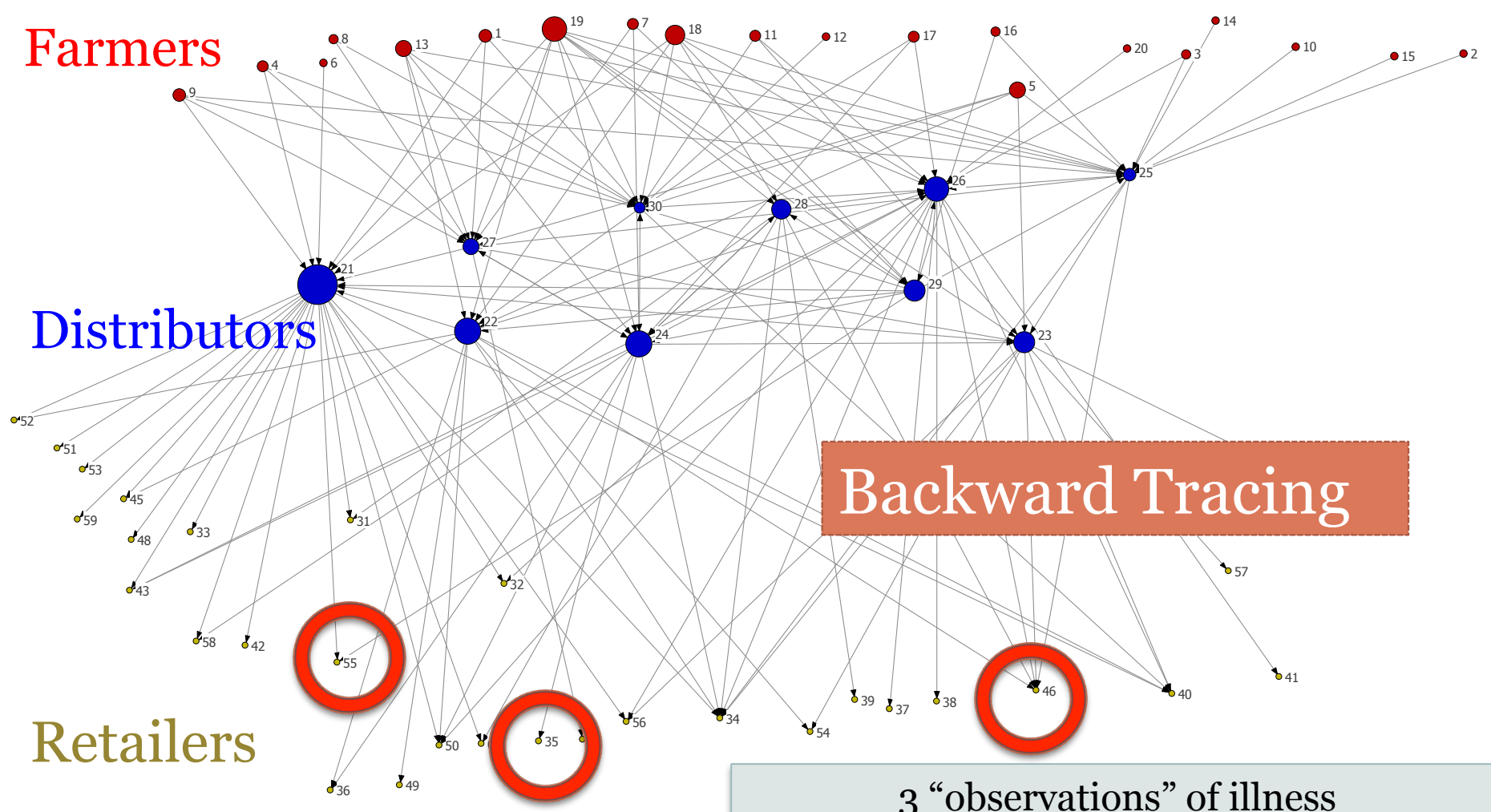
Distributors

6 retailers reached by Farm 18

Retailers

3 "observations" of illness

# Modeling Framework



Farmers

Distributors

Retailers

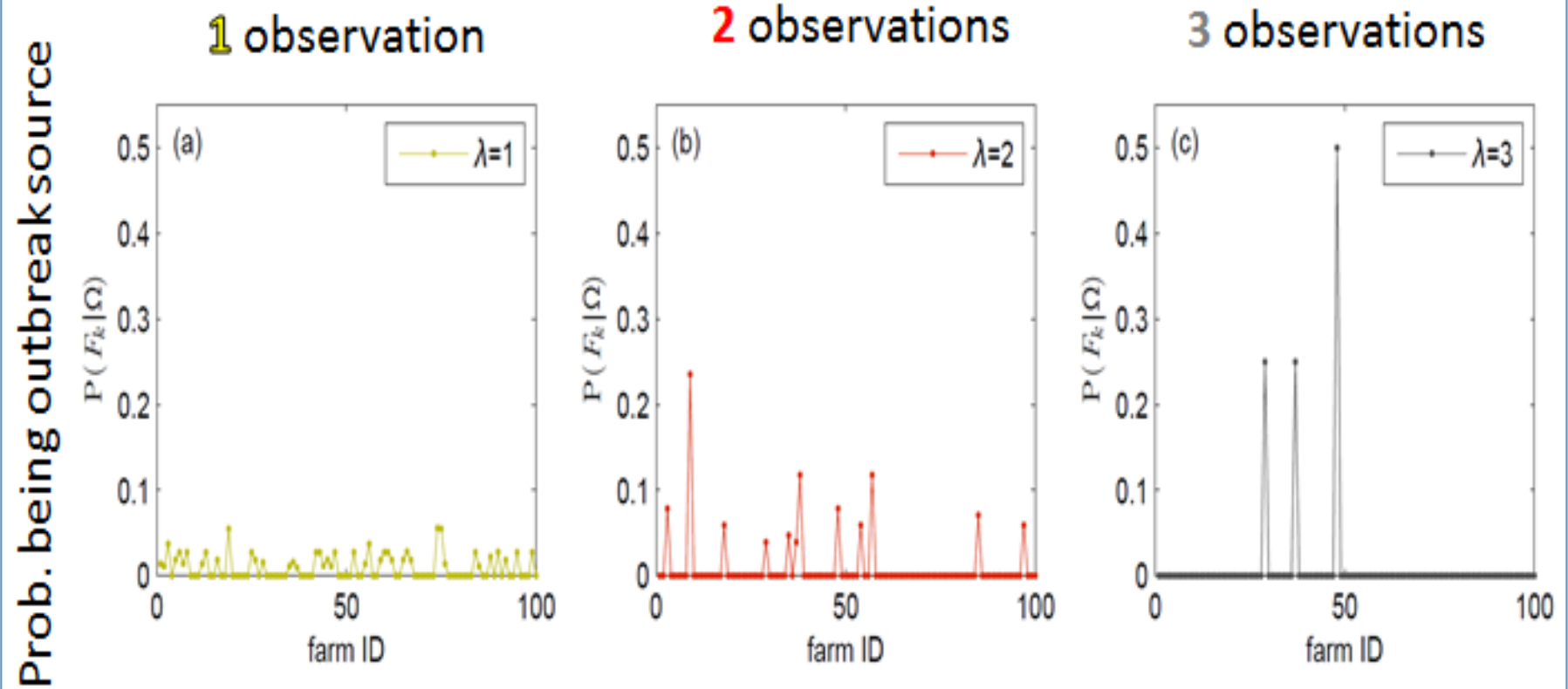
Backward Tracing

3 "observations" of illness

# Probability Distribution Example

21

Probability of being the outbreak source given...



# Defining Probability Space

22

$FD$ : Distribution matrix for links going from Farms to Distributors ( $|F| \times |D|$ )

$DR$ : Distribution matrix for links going from Distributors to Retailers ( $|D| \times |R|$ )

$\Omega$ : Set of retailers reporting infection

$$FR = F \times FD \times DR = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & x_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & x_F \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} fd_{11} & fd_{12} & \cdots & fd_{1D} \\ fd_{21} & fd_{22} & \cdots & fd_{2D} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ fd_{F1} & fd_{F2} & \cdots & fd_{FD} \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} dr_{11} & dr_{12} & \cdots & dr_{1R} \\ dr_{21} & dr_{22} & \cdots & dr_{2R} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ dr_{D1} & dr_{D2} & \cdots & dr_{DR} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} fr_{11} & fr_{12} & \cdots & fr_{1R} \\ fr_{21} & fr_{22} & \cdots & fr_{2R} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ fr_{F1} & fr_{F2} & \cdots & fr_{FR} \end{bmatrix}$$

**Inference: Determine conditional probabilities**

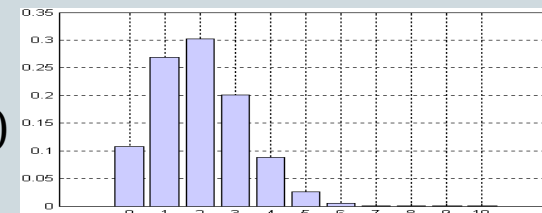
$$P(F_k | \Omega) \equiv P(F_k | \bigcap_{i \in \Omega} R_i) = \frac{P(F_k \bigcap_{i \in \Omega} R_i)}{\bigcap_{i \in \Omega} R_i}$$

$$P(F_k \bigcap_{i \in \Omega} R_i) = P(F_k)P(R_1 | F_k)P(R_2 | F_k \cap R_1) \dots$$

$$P\left(\bigcap_{i \in \Omega} R_i\right) = \sum_{k \in F} P(F_k)P(R_1 | F_k)P(R_2 | F_k \cap R_1) \dots$$

$$P(R_j | F_i) = \frac{f_i r_j}{\sum_j f_i r_j}$$

$P(F_i)$



Retailers

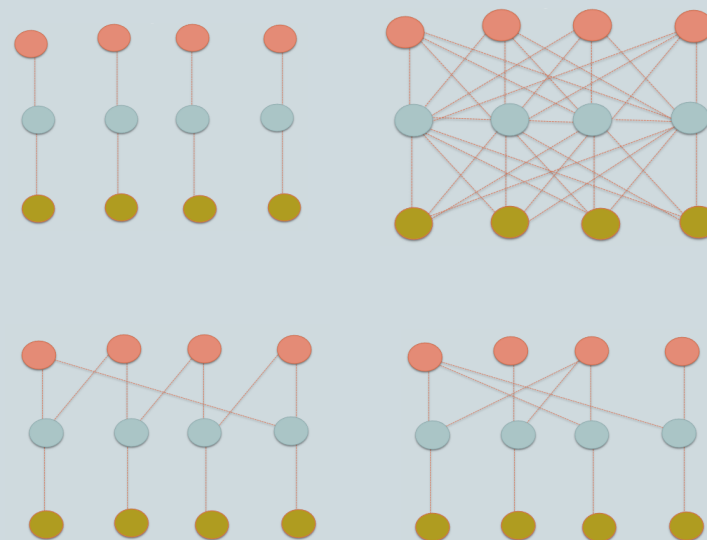
# Methodology: Metrics, Limiting Cases

23

## METRICS

- Network Traceability Accuracy
  - Expected accuracy as a function of  $|\Omega|$  observations and  $m$  “guesses”
  - Expected accuracy with **incomplete knowledge about network?**
    - How much knowledge is necessary for traceback within bounds of accuracy?
- Expected # of farms tested until source identified
  - Also allows computation of the expected value of the cost of the investigation.

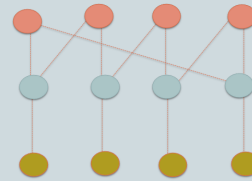
## Limiting Cases



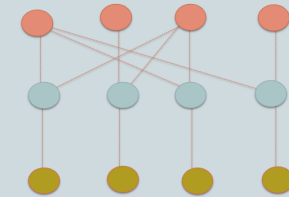
# Numerical Example: Number of Farms to Test

24

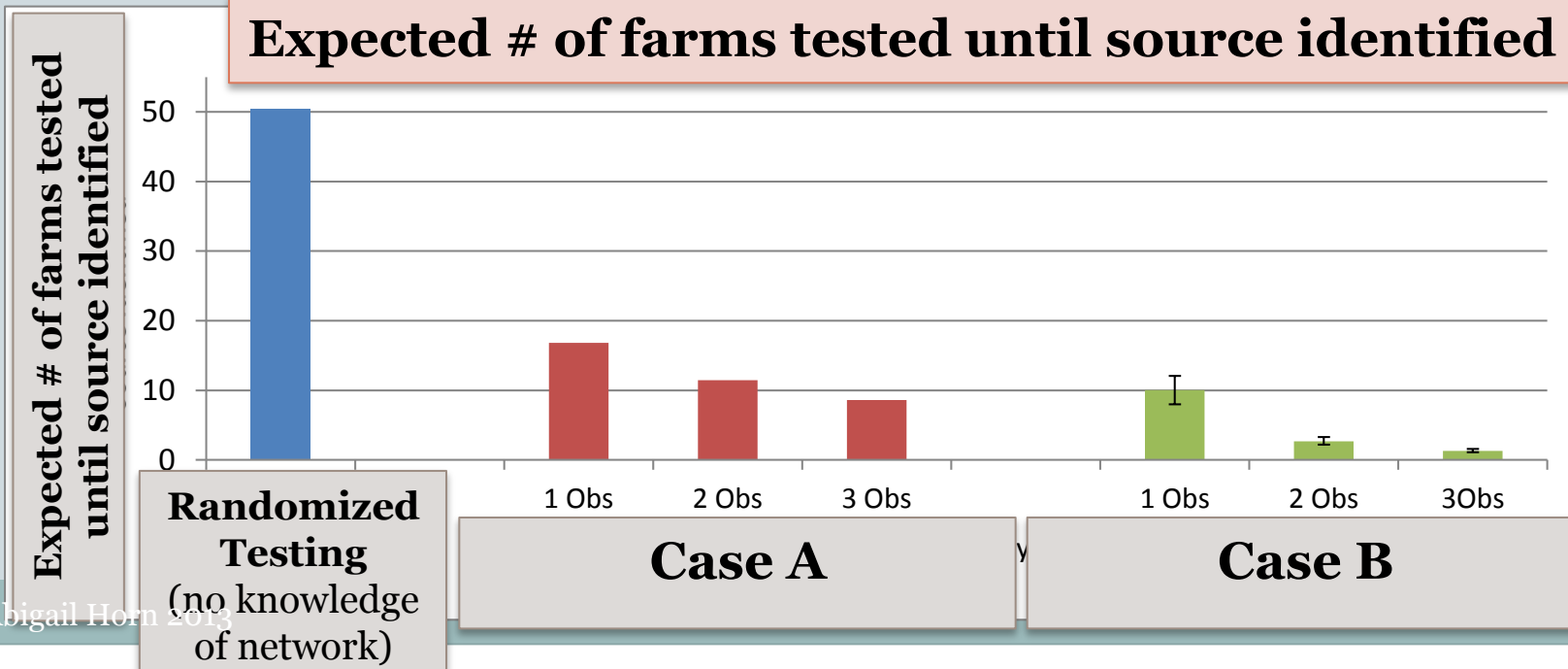
- 100 farms
- Each retailer reached by 20 farms



Case A: Network with highest uncertainty



Case B: Random network structure





# Methodology: Three Classes of Networks

25

## → Closed form analytical solutions

- Analytically tractable results require considerable restrictions on modeling framework
- Lower bound on accuracy set by statistically identical connectivity patterns, which are most tractable analytically

## → Algorithmic approaches using Bayesian Network framework

- Investigate networks with more layers and complicated connectivity patterns

## → Monte Carlo simulation

- For situations not tractable with algorithm (e.g. cycles)

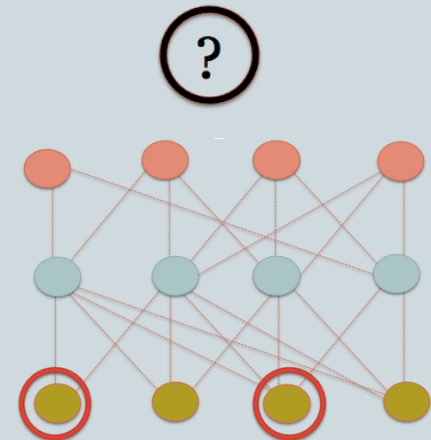
How far can each be pushed before resorting to the next?

# Applications: Tactical, real-time outbreak response

26

## GUIDANCE PROVIDED:

- Identify highest probability sources of contamination
- **Search theory:** Determine how search effort should be allocated
  - Automatically produces estimates of the cost of a given success probability
- Guide targeted messaging by localizing outbreak



# Comparison to current methods

27

## Make comparisons to examples of past outbreaks

- Include prior probabilities derived from temporal, historical, environmental, and scientific evidence

### COMPARISON METRICS

**Accuracy improvement** at increasing levels of “available information”

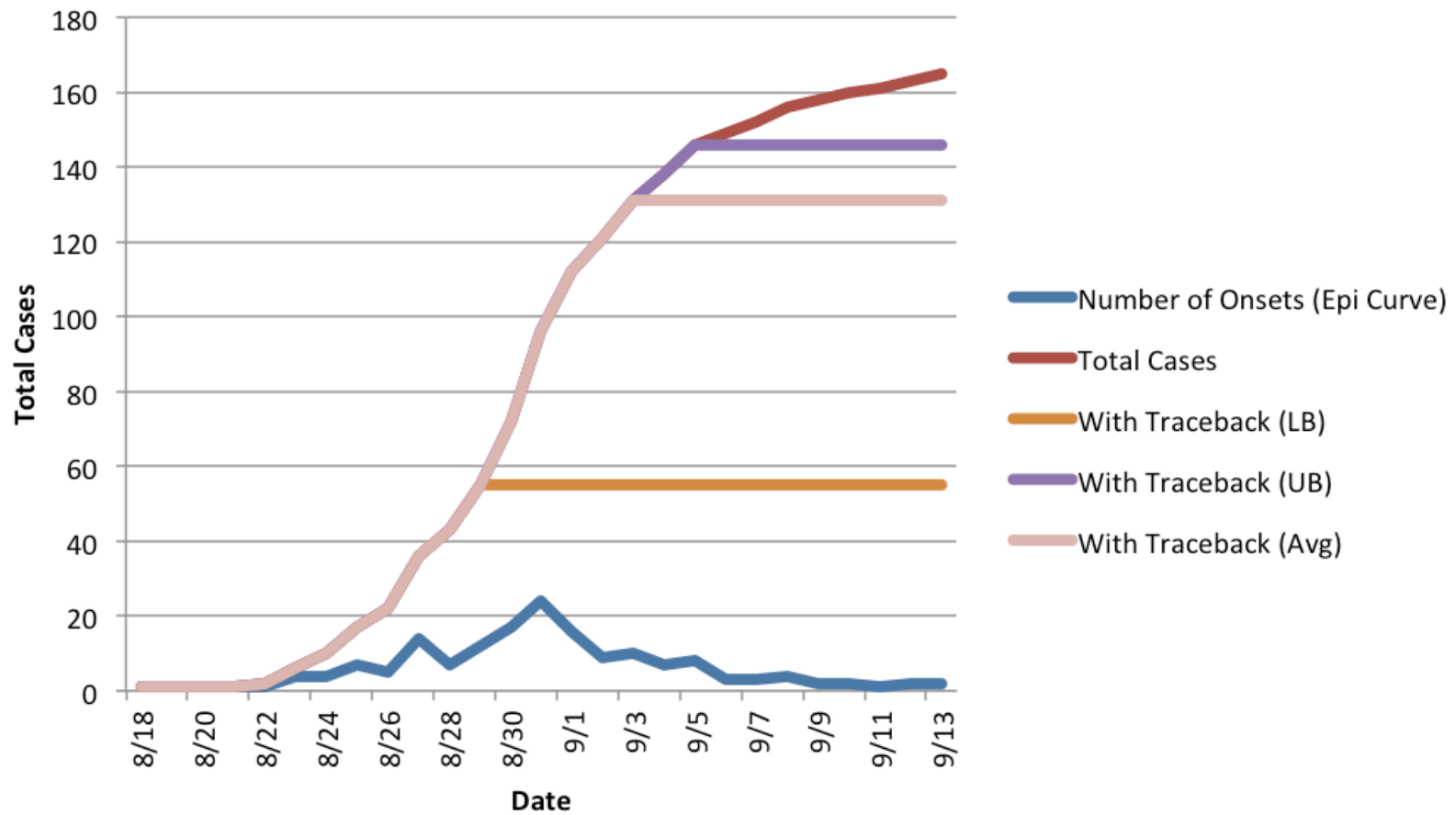
**Time reduced = illnesses averted**

**Size reduction:** Narrow down the firms involved or the geographical area containing the origin of the outbreak

# Comparison to current methods

28

## Cases Averted with Earlier Traceback



# Contributions

29

**Academic and practical contribution is to  
improve traceability**

# Contributions

30

**Academic:** to develop implementable algorithms that identify the highest probability sources of contamination in the most efficient manner;  
To develop a theory of optimal search effort on distribution networks

**Practical:** Work with stakeholders to develop a scientifically sound, *implementable* methodology to establish hypotheses early to guide investigation and control measures

**Practical:** Make recommendations on what “recordkeeping” data the FDA should systematically collect.

“Any measure that will help to determine where we should focus our attention and give leads on the investigation would have a lot of application and utility for public health. Messaging could be more targeted because we would be able to narrow down more quickly where the product is not coming from...This could really make a difference early on!”

— S. McGarry, Foodborne Outbreak Coordinator at FDA  
Headquarters, Personal communication, December 20, 2012

# Backup Slides

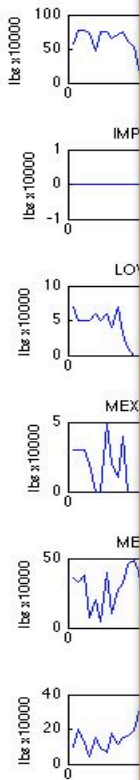
31

# Weight Networks with Prior Information

32

Incorporate as “prior probabilities” information about risk-related factors such as:

- **Temporal information**
- **Historical data:** results from inspections, statistical associations between particular regions and commodities
- **Environmental factors:** weather events, movement of wild animals
- **Pathogen-commodity risk models** (Reviewed in: Anderson et al., 2011)



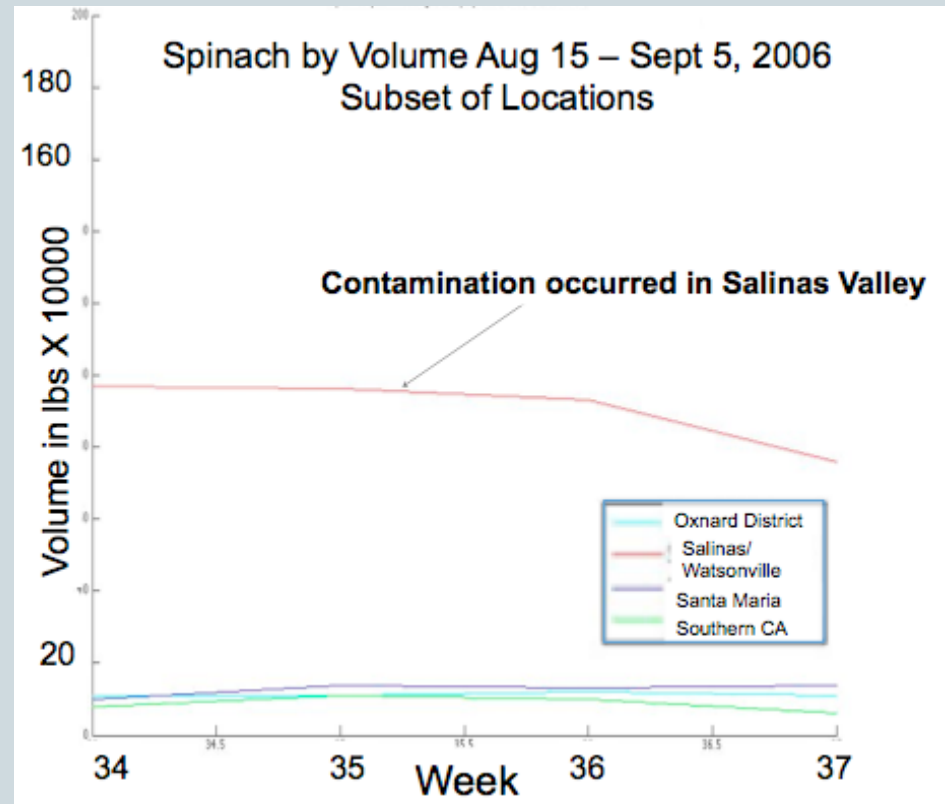
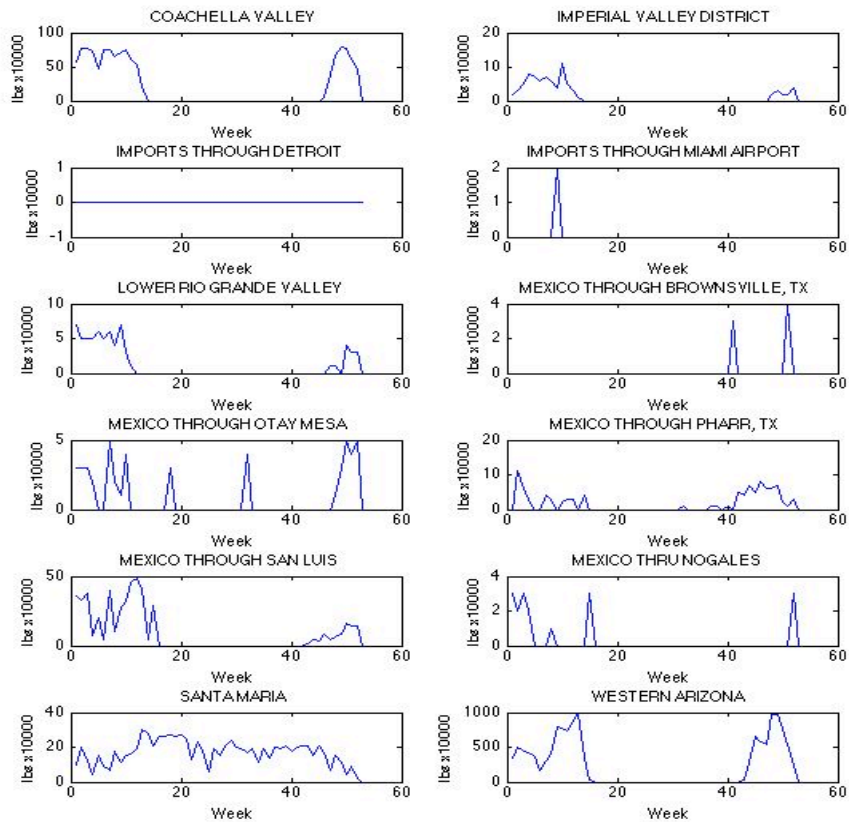
Shipping records for movement of spinach over 2012 (volume)  
(from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service)

movement of spinach for **possible** origin districts during August 15 – September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006.



# Weight Networks with Prior Information

33



Movement of spinach for **possible** origin districts during August 15 – September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

# Model Building and Data Sources

34

Type A: Build high-level models from ground up

Product-specific point of view must be taken



# Model Building and Data Sources

35

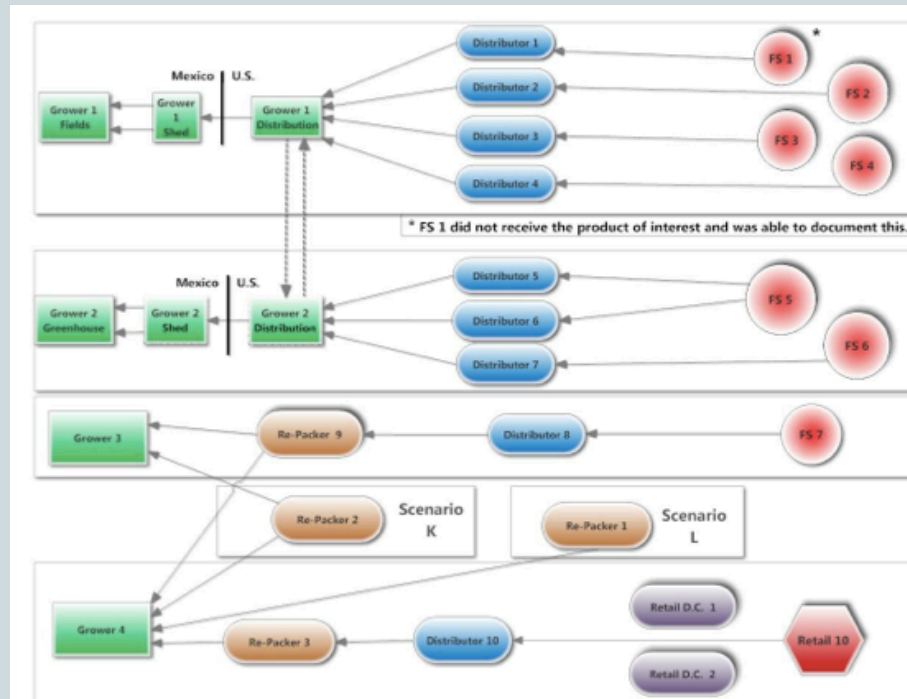
## Type A: Build high-level models from ground up

Data Types	Data Sources
<b>NODES:</b> Locations of growing regions, locations of distribution centers, brokers, wholesalers, and retail warehouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secondary data collection of shipping records and expert elicitation compiled by BTSafety, LLC, for their Consequence Management System</li><li>• Expert elicitation with state agriculture and commerce departments, marketing associations/trade organizations, and cooperative extension centers</li></ul>
<b>LINKS:</b> Supply and demand data for traders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)</li><li>• Gravity models to fill in (Pinior et al., 2012)</li></ul>
<b>WEIGHTS:</b> Weekly shipment and border crossing information, commodity seasonality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agricultural Marketing Service</li><li>• FDA pathogen-commodity risk models</li><li>• Expert elicitation as above</li></ul>
<b>OUTPUT:</b> Location of reported cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marler Clark Litigation Firm</li></ul>

# Model Building and Data Sources

36

Type B: Use supply chain models from FDA, IFT (Institute for Food Technologists)



Pilot Projects for Improving Product Tracing along the Food Supply System – Final Report. Institute of Food Technologists – prepared for the FDA. August 2012.

# Model Corroboration

37

Models will be corroborated through

- **Conversations with experts to approve inputs:** Conversations with experts at the FDA and in industry who have comprehensive knowledge of supply chain structure for the three chosen commodities to ensure the structural and temporal parameters of the models are reasonable
- **Using data on past outbreaks to evaluate outputs:** Because the models are representations rather than exact characterizations of supply chains, we cannot directly project the exact data from past outbreaks reported in FDA and state health department post-incident outbreak investigation reports. We will make use of these cases by basing parameter values on the actual values from cases in selected cases to recreate the story line in our models, represent an analogous progression of the contamination event, and check whether the resulting statistics of the outbreak traceback correspond qualitatively with those reported.

# Promise of Technology-Enabled Traceability

38

## Technology exists to have fully traceable food supply system

But along with logistical difficulties of tracing loose produce...  
current lack of will to implement full traceability due to:

### Mandated by Government

- No meaningful purposed legislation
- Unfavorable legislative environment
- Only can go in after “reasonable cause”



### Adopted by Industry

- **Full compliance a distant reality**
- Not incentivized to create a system that tracks food once it has been sold and consumed
- Failure to supply adequate traceability systems for basic food safety control
- Firms find value in anonymity (Golan et al., 2004)