

IF IT IS WORTH DOING ONCE, IT IS WORTH DOING EIGHT TIMES

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Overlapping federal inspections
- ✘ **TEAM:** Multiple Agencies
- **FUMBLE:** Duplicative laboratory inspection rules
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Agencies should coordinate to avoid duplicative, burdensome inspections

Most families agree the scientific laboratories that develop the pesticides farmers use to grow their crops and ultimately feed American families should be thoroughly inspected to ensure they follow all applicable rules and laws. However, multiple federal agencies should not waste taxpayer money to duplicate inspection efforts.

In one particular instance, GAO found that from 2005-2012, both EPA and FDA conducted eight total inspections of the same pesticide laboratory for compliance with good laboratory practices.³⁹⁶ Moreover EPA and FDA failed to renew an interagency agreement in 2004 that facilitated interagency coordination on the inspections of pesticide laboratories, which could have prevented the burdensome, overlapping inspections. A representative from one of the laboratories told GAO that some of the information in the toxicology studies FDA

officials examined during a 2011 inspection could have been shared with EPA officials to increase efficiency.³⁹⁷

RECOVERY

Here is a new idea: EPA and FDA should work together. All federal agencies should coordinate inspections to save taxpayer money and relieve our country's laboratories of the burden of additional, unnecessary inspections. American scientists are best able to produce chemicals that are safe for families when they do not have to waste time and resources going through duplicative federal inspections. If agencies cannot accomplish this on their own, Congress should design a process that easily allows agencies to share information and ensure activities do not directly overlap with the actions of another agency.

[For more information, please visit:](#)

[GAO: 2015 Annual Report: Additional Opportunities to Reduce Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication and Achieve Other Financial Benefits](#)