

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture. Office of Inspector General
Information Management Division. 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-2309. Room 9-E. World Wide Web: www.usda.gov/oig

Nancy A. Bartel (202) 720-6915
nabartel@oig.usda.gov

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 2001 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General announced today that Marvin L. Swick, 49, of Ponca, Neb., was convicted Dec. 19 in federal court of tampering with consumer (food) products at a Sioux City, Iowa, grocery store. He had been charged with acting “with reckless disregard for the risk that another person would be placed in danger or bodily injury” in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 1365 (a). Swick had been apprehended after an extensive investigation by OIG and the Sioux City Police Department.

Evidence at trial showed that from Aug. 7-19, 1999, Swick had inserted sewing machine needles into various types of food products at the store, including packages of meat, fruit and bakery products. Several instances of tampering occurred, but no injuries were reported.

This threat to public health and safety triggered an all-out criminal investigation. Eighteen OIG special agents and numerous officers from the Sioux City Police Department were dedicated to the case, which included weeks of round-the-clock surveillance culminating in the arrest of Swick.

Swick faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing is pending. The Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa prosecuted this case.