FDA vs USDA? Federal agencies ready for a turf war, but may partner to regulate lab-grown meat

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said [on July 17th] that the agency is working closely with USDA on early efforts to establish a regulatory framework for lab-grown meat, or "cell-cultured foods," the FDA's preferred name for it.

The budding technology involves replicating animal cells to create foods like burgers and seafood. It has set up a turf battle between the FDA and USDA because both have authority over food safety rules.

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"We're working closely with USDA to try to understand what, if any, jurisdictional lines there are to know what role [the department] would play potentially in this as well," Gottlieb said. "But it's very clear to us that a lot of the scientific aspects of this is what [FDA] is going to be looking at, and certainly things like fish would fall squarely within our domain."

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Gottlieb said there may be collaborative efforts with USDA on meat and poultry, but a lot of the cell-cultured products will likely be outside that sector.

Read full, original article: Gottlieb: FDA working closely with USDA on jurisdiction over 'cell-cultured foods'