



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

Volume 10, Issue 37  
September 19, 2008

# FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

## USDA to Host Public Meeting on Animal Raising Claims

FSIS and USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will host a public meeting on October 14 to discuss and review its policies on the use of animal raising claims in the labeling of meat and poultry products.

FSIS evaluates animal raising claims by considering information on animal production practices submitted by companies as part of their label approval requests. However, recent events concerning labeling claims related to the use of antibiotics in the raising of poultry have led the Agency to question its ability to verify that labels of meat and poultry products that contain animal raising claims are truthful and not misleading.

Therefore, FSIS and AMS will solicit public input and review its policies on claims related to the use of antibiotics in poultry and on animal raising claims in general.

The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. and adjourn at 12:30 p.m. It will be held at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. An agenda will be available for review on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/meetings\\_&\\_events/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/meetings_&_events/index.asp).

## FSIS to Host Public Meeting Regarding the Control of *E. coli* O157:H7: Addressing Sampling Methodologies and Compliance Guidelines

FSIS will host a public meeting on October 14 and 15 regarding control of *E. coli* O157:H7. This one-and-a-half day public meeting will address uniformity and consistency of sampling methodology for *E. coli* O157:H7, both by industry and FSIS. FSIS will also address *E. coli* O157:H7 compliance guidelines

*Continued on page two*

### Inside this Issue

<i>E. coli</i> Testing Results .....	2
NACMCF Public Meeting .....	3
Codex Public Meeting .....	3



## Export Requirement Updates



The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following:

**Chile**

**Japan**

**People's Republic of China**

Complete information can be found at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp).

## Agency Opens Comment Period for Low Dose Irradiation Public Meeting

FSIS held a public meeting on September 18 to discuss what action the Agency should take with respect to the use of low dose irradiation as a processing aid.

Individuals may submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) until October 18.

Transcripts for this meeting will be made available on FSIS' Web site. Look to future issues of FSIS' *Constituent Update* for more updates.

## Public Meeting ...

*Continued from page one*

and will also use the meeting to gather input from stakeholders on other *E. coli* O157:H7 control issues that need to be addressed which will be compiled into a list of discussion topics for future public meetings.

More information on the location and an upcoming agenda will be available soon at [www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/meetings\\_&\\_events/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/meetings_&_events/index.asp).

## FSIS Updates *E. coli* O157:H7 Reports

FSIS has updated *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7 testing data to include information through September 14, 2008.

### Results from Analysis of Raw Ground Beef and Raw Ground Beef Component Samples for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7

Raw Ground Beef						
Source	As of September 16, 2007			As of September 14, 2008		
	Number Analyzed	Number Positive	Percent Positive	Number Analyzed	Number Positive	Percent Positive
Federal Plants	8,573	16	0.19	8,117	31	0.38
Retail Stores	127	0	0.00	282	0	0.00
Imports	61	0	0.00	38	1	2.63
Raw Ground Beef Components						
Source	As of September 16, 2007			As of September 14, 2008		
	Number Analyzed	Number Positive	Percent Positive	Number Analyzed	Number Positive	Percent Positive
Federal Plants	406	2	0.49	1,541	10	0.65
Imports	0	0	0.00	385	2	0.52
The above information is based upon data in the FSIS electronic data system as of September 16, 2008. Results are from FSIS routine and follow-up sampling programs.						

For the week ending September 14, 2008, four new positives have been reported. Three positives occurred in the testing of raw ground beef in federal plants, and one positive occurred in the testing of raw ground beef components in federal plants. For these four recent positive test results, the product was held by the establishments and not released into commerce. FSIS will continue to monitor these events.

Individual positive results from the raw ground beef sampling programs for 2008 are reported on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/2008\\_Ecoli\\_Positive\\_Results/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/2008_Ecoli_Positive_Results/index.asp).

## **Revised FSIS Testing Methodology for *E. coli* O157:H7**

FSIS has revised the laboratory methodology guidebook, chapter 5.04 for detecting and identifying *E. coli* O157:H7 in regulatory verification samples.

To reflect changes made January 28, the revision describes the use of an improved enrichment broth and confirmatory identification procedures for *E. coli* O157:H7.

New protocol include an updated limit of the level at which *E. coli* O157:H7 can be detected for various products and new instructions for preparing sub-samples of beef manufacturing trimmings and other ground beef components as well as preparing environmental sponge samples for *E. coli* O157:H7 analysis.

FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

To view the related *Federal Register* notice in detail, visit [www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2008-0007.htm](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2008-0007.htm).

## **NACMCF and its Subcommittees to Hold Public Meetings**

The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) will hold public meetings from September 22 through 26 to discuss parameters for inoculated-pack challenge study protocols and determination of the most appropriate technologies for FSIS to adopt in performing routine and baseline microbiological analyses.

The full committee will meet on September 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the USDA's South Building Cafeteria, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C.

In addition, the subcommittees will meet for separate discussions

at the Aerospace Building, 901 D Street, S.W., in Room 369, Washington, D.C. from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 22 and 23 as well as September 24 and 25.

The NACMCF meeting agenda and other materials will be made available on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2008\\_Notices\\_Index/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2008_Notices_Index/).

Persons interested in making a presentation, submitting technical papers or providing comments at the September 26 plenary session should contact Karen Thomas-Sharp at (202) 690-6620 or [karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov) by September 17.

## **Public Meeting: Codex Committee to Address Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses**

FSIS and the Food and Drug Administration announced a public meeting to provide information and receive comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 30th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, November 3 through 7.

The public meeting is scheduled for September 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. at 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, Harvey Wiley Federal Building, Room 1A003, College Park, Maryland. To review the related press release in detail, visit [www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_091508\\_02/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_091508_02/index.asp).

For more information about the public meeting contact Edith Kennard at (202) 720-5261 or [edith.kennard@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:edith.kennard@fsis.usda.gov). Persons requiring a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations for the public meeting should notify Doreen Chen-Moulec at (202) 205-7760.