

FSIS Scheduling Criteria and Algorithm for the *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* Verification Sampling Program for Raw Meat and Poultry¹

Objective:

FSIS schedules up to 75 new sample sets each month under the *Salmonella* Verification Sampling Program for Raw Meat and Poultry.² The establishments and products selected for sample sets are chosen according to a risk-based algorithm that involves sorting the list of eligible establishments and their respective products by certain criteria and selecting the top 75 from this list.³ These are the priority groups and the order in which they are sorted, in descending order of importance.⁴

Criteria:

I. Plant Category or Plant Status⁵

Plants are initially sorted by category or status.

- 1) *Category 3 Establishments (includes Establishments with One Completed Set that was Failing)*
- 2) *New Establishments and Existing Establishments with Newly Eligible Product⁶*
- 3) *Establishments with One Completed Set that was Passing⁷*
- 4) *Category 2 Establishments (≥100 days since last set)*
- 5) *Category 2T Establishments (≥100 days since last set)*
- 6) *Category 1 Establishments (≥660 days since last set)*
- 7) *Category 1 Establishments (365 to 659 days since last set)⁸*

II. Product

Within each status category, plants are then sorted based on product priority.

- 1) *Broilers⁹*
- 2) *Young Turkeys⁹*
- 3) *Market Hogs¹⁰*
- 4) *Ground Chicken¹¹*

¹ Includes *Campylobacter* testing for Broiler and Turkey carcass sets begun after July 1, 2011

² See Federal Register Notice of July 25, 1996 regarding the HACCP Systems Final Rule;

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/93-016F.pdf>

³ See "SOP to Identify Establishments Eligible for Inclusion in *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* Verification Sampling Program" on FSIS website at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/SOP_Salmonella_Eligibility_Testing_092211.pdf

⁴ This algorithm is subject to periodic intraprogram review and adjustment; during natural disasters (e.g., hurricane), Category 2 plants not currently scheduled may be scheduled.

⁵ See FSIS method to categorize *Salmonella* establishments published in Federal Register Notice of January 28, 2008 (73 FR 4767-4774; <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2006-0034.htm>).

⁶ Includes eligible turkey slaughter plants (carcasses) as of May 2006, and any new plant operating for at least 90 days (to accommodate 9 CFR 304.3)

⁷ These plants, technically category 2 or 2T, are placed ahead of other category 2 and category 2T establishments.

⁸ Category 1 Establishments are not routinely scheduled for sampling until at least 12 months after their last set.

⁹ Broiler and young turkey plants are considered new establishments until 2 sets have been completed under the new *Salmonella*/*Campylobacter* performance standards, and will be targeted for expedited sampling. If a plant fails EITHER *Salmonella* OR *Campylobacter* it will be treated as a failed set (for the purposes of scheduling only) and be scheduled for an immediate follow-up set the next month.

¹⁰ Until further notice, sample sets will not be scheduled for Market Hogs, Cows/Bulls, or Steers/Heifers

- 5) *Ground Turkey*¹¹
- 6) *Ground Beef*¹¹
- 7) *Cows/Bulls*¹⁰
- 8) *Steers/Heifers*¹⁰

III. Most Recent Set Result

Within each product class, priority is assigned based on the result of the most recent *Salmonella* set.

- 1) *Failed; Exceeded Performance Standard*
- 2) *Passed; > 50% Performance Standard*
- 3) *Passed; ≤ 50% Performance Standard*

IV. Human Health Serotypes Linked to Product Class

Within each group of recent set results, the next priority is given to the number of human health serotype isolates identified in samples from an establishment's **last** set.¹²

V. Days Since Last Completed Set

Final priority is given to the number of days since each establishment's last completed set.

Additional Requirements:

As monthly availability permits, establishments may also be scheduled for *Salmonella* Verification Sample Sets by request from personnel in the Office of Field Operations (OFO).

As of July 1, 2011, the new *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* performance standards for Broilers and Young Turkeys became effective. For the purposes of scheduling only, *Salmonella* categorization of establishments for these two market classes will be determined as if the standards had been in place at the time an establishment's most recent two *Salmonella* verification sets were performed, including sets performed prior to July 1, 2011.¹³

Also, Broiler and Turkey *Salmonella* sets scheduled after July 1, 2011 are being co-analyzed for *Campylobacter*. All Broiler and Turkey establishments will maintain their *Salmonella* category statuses, but will be marked as having "newly eligible product" or "one completed set" until two sets are completed under the new testing program.¹⁴

Plant categories for these poultry establishments are based on the *Salmonella* set results, however, if a plant fails a set for EITHER *Salmonella* OR *Campylobacter* it will be treated as a failed set (for the purposes of scheduling only) and be scheduled for immediate follow-up set the next month.

¹¹ If plant is combination carcass/grinding operation, these products are scheduled independently (these plants will have a category for each product); carcass and ground product sets will not be scheduled concurrently.

¹² Number calculated using top 20 Human Health Serotypes for most recent calendar year as reported by the CDC.

¹³ See FSIS Notice 31-11 (dated 6/30/11) for information on how actual individual and aggregate set results and plant categorizations will be reported.

¹⁴ Once 90% of Broiler and Turkey establishments have 2 completed sets under the new standard, FSIS will begin putting them into categories for *Campylobacter* as well as *Salmonella*.

In the initial phase of implementation with regard to Laboratory sampling capacity, a maximum of 16 Broiler and Turkey sets can be scheduled each month. Currently, the goal is to schedule the top 12 Broiler establishments and the top 4 Turkey establishments from the sorted list of eligible establishments. These target numbers are subject to quarterly review and adjustment by FSIS. The remainder of the 75 sample sets will come from other products.