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FSIS Constituent Update

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Reminder: FSIS to Host Open House at Eastern Laboratory

As mentioned in the December 20, 2019 *Constituent Update*, FSIS plans to host an open house at the Eastern Laboratory in Athens, Georgia on January 31, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is to offer an inside look at the sample analysis process from beginning to end. The event will provide an overview of what happens to a sample from the time it is delivered to an FSIS laboratory to the time the sample result is reported. Attendees will receive an introductory presentation about the laboratory system followed by a visit to the sample receiving area and other stations within the laboratory to learn how samples are processed and analyzed for microbial pathogens, chemical residues, and tissue pathology (pathology is at the Eastern Lab only). Deputy Undersecretary for Food Safety Dr. Mindy Brashears and FSIS Deputy Administrator Paul Kiecker both intend to attend the event.

Participants must pre-register and registration is limited to 30 people on a first-come, first-served basis. Please go to https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/newsroom/meetings/meetings-archive/upcoming-meetings/meeting-registration-ophs-open-house to register. A confirmation email with additional logistics will be provided to attendees prior to the open house session.

Dates for the Midwestern Laboratory and Western Laboratory open houses will be announced in a future *Constituent Update*.

FSIS Posts Updated Dataset on Import Refusals

On January 15, 2020, FSIS will update the publicly posted dataset on import refusals for products that they regulate. Federal law requires every commercial shipment of imported meat, poultry, and egg products to be re-inspected prior to product entering U.S. commerce. FSIS re-inspects each shipment to verify labeling, proper certification, general condition, and any signs of tampering and to identify product adulterated by transportation damage. FSIS also performs additional activities on a random and/or for-cause basis, such as physical product examination and laboratory sampling for pathogens and chemical residues.

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Export Requirements Update

The Library of Export Requirements has been updated for the following countries:

Australia
Barbados
China, People's Republic of
French Polynesia
Morocco

For a complete list of countries, visit *https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products*.

FSIS Posts Updated...

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Any product that does not meet FSIS requirements is refused entry, and the importer has up to 45 days (30 days for egg products) to have the product destroyed for use as human food, re-exported/returned to the foreign country, converted to animal food, or brought into compliance with FSIS requirements, if applicable (e.g., relabeled, remarked, or issued a replacement certificate).

This dataset is updated around the 15th of each month and contains each shipment with product that was refused entry. To access these datasets or view more information about them, please visit the FSIS Datasets page at: https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/data.

Establishment Specific Datasets Now Available

FSIS has posted a new establishment-specific dataset on the FSIS website as announced in the Federal Register on July 14, 2016 (Docket No. FSIS-2014-0032). This is the full dataset of risk-based *Listeria monocytogenes* sampling results. Prior to publishing this dataset, the sample dataset and corresponding data documentation were posted on November 22, 2019 and comments were sought until January 3, 2020. FSIS updates existing datasets quarterly and this dataset will next be updated in April.

The quarterly updates to other establishment-specific datasets are now available on the FSIS website:

- Ready-to-Eat (RTE) Meat and Poultry Sampling Data
- Egg Product Sampling Data
- Raw Ground Beef Sampling Data
- Raw Beef Trim Sampling Data
- Raw Beef Components Data
- Raw Beef Follow-up Sampling Data
- Raw Chicken Carcasses Data
- Raw Turkey Carcasses Data
- Raw Chicken Parts Data
- Raw Comminuted Chicken Data
- Raw Comminuted Turkey Data
- Raw Poultry Follow-up Sampling Data

Additional details can be found at https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/data/datasets-laboratory-sampling.

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Additional Slaughter Classes Included in FSIS National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System Surveillance

The National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) is an interagency, partnership between state and local public health departments, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The NARMS surveillance system tracks changes in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) of select foodborne bacteria found in ill people (CDC), retail meats (FDA), and food animals (USDA). The FSIS NARMS program focuses on two post-slaughter sampling points - intestinal cecal contents and meat, poultry, and fish samples, both collected at slaughter establishments. Cecal content samples are analyzed for *Salmonella, Campylobacter, Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), and *Enterococcus*. Food animals that are sampled include young chickens, young turkeys, dairy cattle, beef cattle, market hogs, and sows. FSIS performs phenotypic AMR analyses and/or whole genome sequencing (WGS) on all *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* isolates and a fraction of *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* isolates in support of NARMS.

Beginning in February 2020, FSIS will expand cecal sampling beyond young chickens, young turkeys, dairy cattle, beef cattle, market hogs, and sows to include veal, sheep, goat, and lamb. FSIS will also perform AMR analysis on *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* isolates obtained from Siluriformes samples and *Salmonella* isolated from mesenteric lymph nodes (MLN) from cattle selected for cecal sampling. In addition, FSIS laboratories will test a subset of cecal content isolates from bovine and swine for Carbapenem Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE). FSIS will also assess bacterial AMR diversity within a sample by analyzing multiple bacterial colonies.

Policy Update

FSIS notices and directives on public health and regulatory issues are available at: https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations. The following policy update was recently issued:

FSIS Notice 01-20 - Mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights Training for all FSIS Employees