



## FSIS Posts Information Identifying Establishments Currently Participating in the *Salmonella* Initiative Program

On Oct. 18, 2017, FSIS updated its [New Technology website](#) to include a [table](#) identifying establishments currently participating in the *Salmonella* Initiative Program (SIP), a regulatory waiver program. FSIS regulations (specifically 9 CFR 303.1(h), 381.3(b), and 590.10) authorize the Administrator to waive for limited periods any provisions of the regulations to permit experimentation so that new procedures, equipment, and processing techniques may be tested to facilitate definite improvements. As described in the July 13, 2011, *Federal Register* Notice, *Salmonella* Verification Sampling Program: Response to Comments on New Agency Policies and Clarification of Timeline for the *Salmonella* Initiative Program (SIP), “[the] *Salmonella* Initiative Program (SIP) [is] for meat and poultry slaughter establishments that agree to share internal food safety data with FSIS in order to receive waivers of regulatory requirements. SIP benefits public health in that it encourages slaughter establishments to test for microbial pathogens and to respond to the ongoing results by taking steps when necessary to regain process control and thus to minimize the presence of pathogens of public health concern.”

The table lists the waivers from regulatory requirements that FSIS has granted to SIP establishments. Establishments participating in SIP test for *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* (if applicable), and generic *E. coli* or other indicator organisms and share all sample results with FSIS. The SIP data may inform future rulemaking activities.

## Policy Updates

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:

**Notice 56-17** - *FSIS Continuing Education Program Open to All Inspectors for the 2018 Spring Semester*

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### Export Requirements Updates

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

Saudi Arabia

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

# National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) Announces Publication of the 2015 Integrated Report

NARMS is a surveillance program conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), FSIS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and state and local health departments to monitor antibiotic resistance in bacteria in human clinical cases, food producing animals, and retail meats. The NARMS program provides information to assess the nature and magnitude of antibiotic resistance in bacteria moving through the food supply and causing illnesses in humans. FSIS monitors changes in antimicrobial resistance profiles in bacteria collected from meat products at regulated establishments through the Pathogen Reduction/Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (PR/HACCP) program and from animals through the cecal sampling surveillance program.

The sampling results from the cecal (intestinal contents) program provides nationally representative antimicrobial resistance information on all four major food animal species (chicken, turkey, cattle, and swine) from all four (*Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, generic *E. coli*, and *Enterococcus*) NARMS bacteria targeted. The sampling results from these two programs help to identify new or changing resistance profiles in bacteria, examine how resistance in bacteria might be spreading and show comparisons between bacteria found in animals used for food and bacteria important in human medicine. Whole Genome Sequence (WGS) is a process that can determine the DNA sequence of bacteria and helps NARMS to monitor genes that are known to confer antimicrobial resistance in NARMS bacterial targets with more accuracy and detect new or emerging genes associated with resistance. WGS data for *Salmonella* from all three NARMS components (human, food animal, and retail meat) and Tableau visualization of NARMS data are important feature of the 2015 NARMS Integrated Report.

To discuss the current status of NARMS and directions for the future, FDA together with the NARMS partner agencies will hold a public meeting “2017 Scientific Meeting of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System” on Oct. 24-25, 2017, and additional details are available at [NARMS Meeting 2017](#).

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## FSIS Posts Aggregate Results for Chicken Parts, Comminuted Poultry, and Poultry Carcasses Tested for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*

FSIS has updated the publicly posted aggregate sampling results (not individual establishments) relative to process control categories for establishments producing young chicken or turkey carcasses, raw chicken parts or Not Ready-To-Eat (NRTE) comminuted poultry products at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/salmonella-verification-testing-program>.

FSIS intends to resume individual establishment Category web posting in the future once additional results from follow-up sampling for establishments that are in Category three have been used to help assess establishment corrective actions. FSIS will be regularly assessing the aggregate data to determine if the follow-up sampling is working effectively.

## Agencies to Host a Public Meeting on the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System

On Oct. 24-25, 2017, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)—in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture—will host a public meeting entitled “2017 Scientific Meeting of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS).” The purpose of this meeting is to summarize NARMS’ progress since the last public meeting in 2014, present recommendations made by the recent FDA Science Board review of NARMS in 2017, and to explore possible future directions for NARMS within a One Health paradigm.

The NARMS public meeting will provide a forum for the Federal and State partners, industry, consumers, and academia to share their experience and perspectives related to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), as well as the role and application of Whole Genome Sequencing in AMR surveillance. All stakeholders, industry, organizations, and other interested individuals are invited to participate in this meeting, and to provide comments to guide the NARMS program into the future.

To view the meeting online:

Oct. 24, 2017: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/mept3ahdhq2f&eom>; and

Oct. 25, 2017: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/oxn6i7igihke&eom>

Streaming audio available through your computer or you can call in to listen to the audio via your phone: U.S. toll free number: (303) 248-0285, Access Code: 7205000. Please note: streaming audio is preferable to audio via phone.

The public meeting will be held at USDA’s Jefferson Auditorium in Washington, D.C. Further information, including a detailed agenda, and the *Federal Register* can be found [here](#).

# Agencies to Host a Public Meeting on Whole Genome Sequencing

FSIS—with participation from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), international partners, and academic institutions—is hosting a public meeting to discuss practices and plans for collecting, and analyzing Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) data, as well as the state of the science and other issues surrounding this technology.

WGS analyses can determine the relation between bacterial isolates with high resolution, and can characterize genes and other features of bacterial genomes. Currently, FSIS, local, State, and federal public health and regulatory partners submit WGS data to a federal public database, readily accessible to federal and state partners, and other stakeholders, including regulated industry and consumers. Using this common database, federal food safety partners can share information and collaborate on issues related to food safety and public health. Inclusion of WGS analyses in decision-making will enhance foodborne outbreak investigations, as well as general decisions related to the use of data from routine verification sampling of establishments under FSIS jurisdiction. Industry, interested individuals, organizations, and other stakeholders are invited to participate in the meeting and comment on FSIS' approaches for using WGS data within a regulatory framework.

The meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 26, 2017 and Oct. 27, 2017. Pre-registration will close on Oct. 22, 2017, and there will be no on-site registration. Only registered attendees will be permitted to enter the building. If special accommodations are requested, please register by Oct. 12, 2017. To view the meeting online on Oct. 26, 2017, visit: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/3fibryf23h39&eom> and for the meeting on Oct. 27, 2017, visit: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/h4ek3xmz1e7u&eom>. Streaming audio available through your computer or you can call in to listen to the audio via your phone: U.S. toll free number: (303) 248-0285, Access Code: 7205000. Please note: streaming audio is preferable to audio via phone.

Further information, including a detailed agenda, and registration link is available in the *Federal Register* at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/09/22/2017-20247/use-of-whole-genome-sequence-analysis-to-improve-food-safety-and-public-health>.

## UPDATE: FSIS Testing for *E. coli*



FSIS posts biweekly updates of the Agency's raw ground beef *E. coli* sampling program, which includes testing results of raw ground beef component samples for *E. coli* O157:H7 and Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STECs) from FSIS routine and follow-up sampling programs. Data are also presented for non-O157 STECs by each non-O157 STEC serogroup.

Between June 4, 2012 and Oct. 15, 2017, FSIS laboratory services analyzed a total of 20,461 beef trim samples (16,630 domestic and 3,831 imported), 4,365 routine follow-up samples (4,251 domestic and 114 imported), and 364 non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. 203 samples were found to be positive; 120 were domestic trim samples, 11 were imported trim samples, 68 were domestic follow-up samples, and four were non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. To-date, three samples have been positive for both O157:H7 and at least one non-O157 STEC strain, and 11 samples have been positive for two different non-O157 O-groups. To view testing results, visit *E. coli* data tables at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portall/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/ec>.