



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 FSIS' routine microbiological sampling of Raw Beef Components. Prior to publishing this dataset, the sample dataset and corresponding data dictionary were posted on Aug. 4, 2017 and comments were sought until Sept. 15, 2017. FSIS updates existing datasets quarterly, approximately the first Friday of the next quarter, so this dataset will next be updated in January 2018.

The quarterly updates to the following establishment specific datasets are also now available on the FSIS website:

- Establishment Demographic Data, which supplements the existing MPI Directory;
- Ready-to-Eat (RTE) Meat and Poultry Sampling Data;
- Egg Product Sampling Data;
- Raw Ground Beef Sampling Data; and
- Raw Beef Trim Sampling Data

For the datasets on laboratory sampling results, there is now an additional data field for the state in which the establishment is located for data users interested in results by state. The next new dataset that FSIS will post will be on FSIS' microbiological testing of Beef Follow-up samples. The sample dataset and data dictionary will be posted on the FSIS website on Nov. 3, 2017. Additional details can be found at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/ffsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/data/ffsis-datasets>.

FSIS Announces New Leadership in the Office of Public Health Science

On Oct. 5, 2017, FSIS announced that Dr. Kis Robertson Hale had been appointed as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS) in FSIS. Dr. Robertson Hale started her career with FSIS in the Office of Field Operations (OFO) in 2003. For nearly 10 years, she has worked in OPHS' Applied Epidemiology Staff, most recently serving as Deputy Director. Dr. Robertson Hale's educational background includes a BS from the Georgia Institute of Technology, a DVM from Tuskegee University, and a MPH from the University of Minnesota. She is also board certified in veterinary preventive medicine, which she obtained after receiving advanced training in CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service. Dr. Robertson Hale is a Captain in the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service.

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Export Requirements Updates

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

- Costa Rica
- Guatemala

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

Revised Compliance Guideline for Whole Grains Statements Posted on the FSIS Website

FSIS is replacing the guideline entitled, "Use of USDA MyPyramid Reference on Meat and Poultry Labeling and Whole Grain Claims" which is currently on the website with the policy guideline, "Food Safety and Inspection Service Guideline on Whole Grain Statements on the Labeling of Meat and Poultry Products." The revised claims guideline is intended to streamline the approval process of labels bearing whole grains statements. The guideline is available [here](#).

The information previously posted on the FSIS website is outdated and incomplete. This revised guideline provides an updated comprehensive list of the types of whole grain statements that may be made, and the documentation and calculations needed, when submitting label applications for sketch approval. Other changes include: a key-points reference chart, a list of grains that are considered whole grains, and the inclusion of label examples bearing whole grain statements.

Additionally, the ID number for the Compliance Guideline for Whole Grain Statements is FSIS-2017-0044 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments on this revised guidance may be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, FSIS, Docket Clerk, Patriots Plaza III, 355 E St. S.W., 8-163A, Mailstop 3782, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700. All comments submitted must include ID number: 2017-0044. The comment period will end on Dec. 6, 2017. For questions or concerns, please contact the Labeling and Program Delivery Staff at 301-504-0878 or via [ASKFSIS](#).

FSIS Announces Webinars for the Compliance Guideline for Label Approval

FSIS will host webinars on the recently posted Compliance Guideline for Label Approval on Oct. 11, 2017 and Oct. 18, 2017, at 2 p.m., EST. The webinar will provide an overview of the generic labeling regulations, including additional information related to generic label approval. The webinar will also discuss the changes to the Compliance Guide to Label Approval. To access the webinar, go to <https://www.teleconference.att.com/servlet/ATTClogin> and follow the on-screen instructions. Use the following information when logging on: Meeting Number: 888-844-9904 Code: 2956126. Please be sure to log on as a participant. For questions, contact Gianfranco Santaliz at 301-504-0878 or Gianfranco.Santaliz@fsis.usda.gov.

Additionally, the ID number for the Compliance Guideline for Label Approval is FSIS-2017-0040-0001 at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments on this revised guidance may be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, FSIS, Docket Clerk, Patriots Plaza III, 355 E St. S.W., 8-163A, Mailstop 3782, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700. All comments submitted must include ID number: 2017-0040. The comment period will end on Oct. 23, 2017. For questions or concerns, please contact the Labeling and Program Delivery Staff at 301-504-0878 or via [ASKFSIS](#).

FSIS Constituent Update is prepared by the Congressional and Public Affairs Staff, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Assistant Administrator
Carol Blake

Deputy Assistant Administrator
Aaron Lavallee

Acting Director
Michelle Catlin

Editor
Veronika Medina

Content and Technical Review Committee
Autumn Canaday
Selena Kremer
Maria Machuca

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.

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

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. 1, 2017, FSIS laboratory services analyzed a total of 20,281 beef trim samples (16,492 domestic and 3,789 imported), 4,338 routine follow-up samples (4,224 domestic and 114 imported), and 364 non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. 202 samples were found to be positive; 120 were domestic trim samples, 11 were imported trim samples, 67 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: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/ffsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/ec>.

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 sequence (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.

This 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. 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>.

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 updates were recently issued:

Notice 53-17 - *End of the Year Performance Management Instructions*

Notice 54-17 - *Actions to Facilitate Industry Access to the Public Health Information System*

Notice 55-17 - *Verifying that Records are Kept by Official Establishments and Retail Stores that Grind Raw Beef*

Directive 1045.1 - *Agency Program Evaluations*

Directive 2450.2 Rev. 3 - *Government Paid Parking for Non Bargaining Unit Employees*

Directive 7120.1 Rev. 43 - *Safe and Suitable Ingredients Used in the Production of Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products*

Docket No. FSIS-2017-0041 - *Codex Alimentarius Commission, Ad Hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance*