

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

03-20

1/10/20

CECAL SAMPLING TO EXPAND THE NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE MONITORING SYSTEM PROGRAM TO INCLUDE VEAL, SHEEP, LAMB, AND GOATS

NOTE: DO NOT IMPLEMENT THIS NOTICE UNTIL FEBRUARY 1, 2020.

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions to Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs) regarding the addition of several slaughter classes to cecal sampling eligibility under the FSIS National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) surveillance program. These additional classes include veal (bob veal, non-formula-fed veal, or formula-fed veal), sheep, lamb, and goat slaughter establishments.

II. BACKGROUND

A. This expansion is being conducted in support of the [National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria \(CARB\)](#) and the [USDA Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) Action Plan](#). The NARMS program is a collaborative partnership with State and local public health departments, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA-CVM), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). FSIS and CVM NARMS programs include isolations of *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), *Campylobacter*, and *Enterococcus* spp. from cecal samples.

B. Under this program, PHVs in veal, sheep, lamb, and goat livestock slaughter establishments will collect cecal samples (as per [FSIS Directive 10,100.1 FSIS Sampling for the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System](#)) from veal, sheep, lamb, and goat carcasses. Only PHVs will collect cecal samples for microbiological testing from veal, sheep, lamb, and goat. NARMS cecal samples collected will be shipped to the FSIS Eastern Laboratory (EL) for analysis.

III. ESTABLISHMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FSIS NARMS SAMPLING PROGRAM

Establishments that slaughter veal, sheep, lamb, and goats are subject to sampling under this program. Sampling eligibility and frequency will be based on the NARMS sampling eligibility criteria in [FSIS Directive 10,100.1](#). PHIS.

IV. REVIEW OF TRAINING MATERIALS

Upon issuance of this notice, PHVs assigned to establishments subject to sampling under the FSIS Cecal Sampling to Expand the NARMS Program are to be familiar with the information provided in this notice and the following FSIS issuances:

1. [FSIS Directive 13000.2](#), *Performing Sampling Tasks in Official Establishments Using the*

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OPI: OPPD

Public Health Information System;

2. [FSIS Directive 7355.1](#), *Use of Sample Seals for Laboratory Samples and Other Applications*;
3. [FSIS Directive 10,100.1](#); and
4. [NARMS Training video](#) (level 2 e-Authentication is needed to access this site).

V. AWARENESS MEETING WITH PLANT MANAGEMENT

Upon issuance of this notice, PHVs at slaughter establishments subject to sampling under this program are to review the information in this notice with establishment management during the next weekly meeting. The PHV is to advise establishment management that sample collection for the FSIS Cecal Sampling to Expand the NARMS Program will begin on or after February 1, 2020. Sample results from the FSIS NARMS sampling program are non-regulatory; therefore, establishments do not need to hold products.

VI. SAMPLING TASK ASSIGNMENT

A. Notification of sampling requests will appear as alerts through PHIS. Project codes will appear as follows:

Project Code	Slaughter Class To Sample
NARMS_BV	Bob Veal
NARMS_FFV	Formula-Fed Veal
NARMS_NFFV	Non Formula-Fed Veal
NARMS_SH	Sheep
NARMS_LB	Lamb
NARMS_GO	Goat

B. The sample collection window for each NARMS sample task is 37 days. PHVs are to schedule sample collection as soon as possible to reserve laboratory capacity. Samples cannot be scheduled once the laboratory has met its daily testing capacity. PHVs are to schedule and ensure completion of the sampling of the NARMS cecal samples on the same day. For extenuating scheduling circumstances (e.g., intermittent producers in which there is short notice for a sampling opportunity), the PHV may contact the Eastern Laboratory to obtain a solution to be able to collect and submit a sample. PHVs are to use the laboratory inquiry mailing list to reach the NARMS point of contact: [FSIS – Laboratory Inquiry – Eastern Lab](#).

C. If a scheduled task will not be collected on the date reserved in the task calendar, the PHV is to remove or reschedule that task as soon as they become aware of the change so that laboratory capacity is as accurate as possible and space is free for additional PHV task scheduling.

D. PHVs are to follow the instructions provided in [FSIS Directive 13,000.2](#), for accepting, scheduling, and completing a directed task using PHIS.

E. For cecal samples collected from Monday to Wednesday morning, the PHV is to schedule to ship the

cecal sample no later than Wednesday afternoon to ensure its arrival at the FSIS EL by Thursday. For cecal samples collected between Wednesday afternoon and Friday afternoon, IPP are to store and maintain the sample under refrigeration and under FSIS control and schedule to ship on Monday morning.

VII. SAMPLE SUPPLIES FOR CECAL COLLECTION

A. The PHV will receive sampling supplies one week prior to the start of the collection window when the directed NARMS sampling is added to the task list. PHVs are to use only the sampling supplies provided by the FSIS laboratory that are specific to this project and specific to the slaughter class scheduled for sample collection.

B. If supplies have not arrived 3 business days prior to the scheduled sampling day or the sample supplies received are not complete, the PHV is to send a request for the needed supplies through the FSIS-Sampling Supplies – Eastern Lab mailbox in Outlook using the following address:

SamplingSupplies-EasternLab@usda.gov

C. PHVs are to use the subject heading “NARMS Sampling Supplies” in the e-mail and include in the message the establishment number, name, and mailing address; the project code(s); the PHV’s contact name and telephone number; and a list of the supplies needed.

D. The PHV can also order sampling supplies through the PHIS task calendar. To order sample supplies, PHVs are to right-click on the scheduled NARMS sampling task and select **Order Supplies** from the drop-down menu. A pop-up window will appear that displays the project code and the name of the FSIS Laboratory that will fill the sampling supply request. When necessary, PHVs are to enter requests for specific supplies (e.g., extra gloves) in the **Comments** field and click **Submit Request**. A confirmation message will appear.

VIII. SAMPLE COLLECTION

A. PHVs are to follow the instructions in [FSIS Directive 10,100.1](#), Section VIII, Part C (Cattle Sample Collection) for cecal sample collection.

NOTE: The PHV is responsible for collecting the cecal samples and is not to delegate this task to other inspection program personnel or any establishment employee.

B. The carcass or lot identification information will be captured in the NARMS Sample Collection Data Fields in PHIS.

C. The number of cecal samples to collect per sampling task is as follows:

Project Code	Slaughter Class
NARMS_BV	Bob Veal
NARMS_FFV	Formula-Fed Veal
NARMS_NFFV	Non Formula-Fed Veal
NARMS_SH	Sheep
NARMS_LB	Lamb

NARMS_GO	Goat
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IX. HOW TO COMPLETE THE SAMPLING TASK AND SHIP THE SAMPLE

A. PHVs are to enter information for the Sample Collection data fields in PHIS for the samples collected. PHVs are to ensure that all requested information is entered into PHIS. When sample collection data entry is completed, the PHV is to click the **Submit to Lab** button, print a finalized form, and sign and date the form. PHIS will display a message stating that the sample collection information has been successfully submitted. PHVs are to place the signed sampling form in the sample box with the corresponding sample.

B. Shipping to the Field Service Laboratories.

1. PHVs are to use only the shipping materials provided by the FSIS laboratory specific for the NARMS sampling programs and refer to [FSIS Directive 7355.1](#), for complete instructions on the proper use of sample seals.
2. For cecal samples collected from Monday to Wednesday morning, the PHV is to ship the cecal sample no later than Wednesday afternoon to ensure its arrival at the FSIS EL by Thursday. For cecal samples collected between Wednesday afternoon and Friday afternoon, PHVs are to store and maintain the sample under refrigeration and under FSIS control and ship on Monday morning. Do not freeze the samples.
3. Upon completion of the sample collection, the PHV is to refer to [FSIS Directive 10,100.1](#), Section XI, Part C for securing, packaging and shipping the cecal sample.

C. Returning unused sample supplies.

1. The PHV is to hold any unused sample supplies for future NARMS sample tasks unless otherwise advised that no additional NARMS tasks will be assigned to the establishment.

NOTE: All scissors must be returned to the FSIS Laboratory in the shipping container with the sample.

2. If at any time there is a need to return unused sampling supplies, the PHV is to send a request for a FedEx Ground shipping label by email through the FSIS - Sampling Supplies – Eastern Lab mailbox in Outlook, using the following address: SamplingSupplies-EasternLab@usda.gov
3. The PHV is to include the establishment name, establishment number, mailing address, and project code in the email request. The PHV is to return any unused sampling supplies for the FSIS NARMS sampling program via ground shipping to the following address:

USDA/FSIS/Eastern Laboratory
Attn: NARMS-Microbiology
Russell Research Center
950 College Station Rd.
Athens, GA 30605

X. SAMPLE RESULTS REPORTING

Results of individual NARMS samples collected will be posted in Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)-Direct and PHIS.

XI. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Office of Policy and Program Development through [askFSIS](#), or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question, use the Submit a Question tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field: Enter **Notice 03-20**.

Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible.

Product Field: Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.

Category Field: Select **Sampling-General** from the drop-down menu.

Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question**.

NOTE: Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development