



Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio Department of Health



Governor Ted Strickland
Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher

ODA Director Robert J. Boggs
ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D.

To: Health Commissioners, Environmental Health Directors, Nursing Directors,
ODA Food Safety Specialists, and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Recall Announcement (ODA/ODH) 2008-03

Date: January 14, 2008

Minnesota Firm Recalls Ground Beef Products Due to Possible *E. coli* O157:H7 Contamination

WASHINGTON - Rochester Meat Company, a Rochester, Minn., firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 188,000 pounds of ground beef products because they may be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced.

The problem was discovered through an investigation initiated by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and the California Department of Public Health into five illnesses in Wisconsin and one illness in California. Anyone concerned about an illness should contact a physician.

The ground beef products subject to recall were produced on Oct. 30, 2007, and Nov. 6, 2007. The products subject to recall were shipped to distributors nationwide for further distribution to restaurants and food service institutions. These products were not available for purchase by consumers in retail establishments.

The following products are subject to recall:

- 10-pound boxes of "SEASONED BEEF BULK" bearing a product number of "09068," as well as an eight-digit lot number beginning with "730314."
- 10-pound boxes of "100% PURE BEEF PATTIES" bearing a product number of "09071," as well as an eight-digit a lot number beginning with "731013."
- 15-pound boxes of "CHEYENNE SEASONED BEEF PATTIES" bearing a product number of "12017" or "12018," as well as an eight-digit lot number beginning with "730314."
- 10-, 15- and 20-pound boxes of "100% PURE GROUND BEEF PATTIES" bearing a product number of "1340," "127533," "135724," "158843" or "158852," as well as an eight-digit lot number beginning with "731013" or "731014."
- 10-pound boxes of "100% PURE GROUND CHUCK BEEF PATTIES" bearing a product number of "158898," as well as an eight-digit lot number beginning with "731014."
- 10-, 15- and 25-pound boxes of "100% PURE GROUND BEEF CHUCK PATTIES" bearing a product number of "85227," "227806," "407823," "407830," "407840,"

"417841" or "437531," as well as an eight-digit lot number beginning with "730314," "731013," or "731014."

- 10-pound boxes of "OUR HOMESTYLE 100% PURE GROUND BEEF PATTIES" bearing a product number of "208033," as well as an eight-digit lot number beginning with "731014."
- 15-pound boxes of "SEASONED BEEF PATTIES" bearing a product number of "357835," as well as an eight-digit lot number beginning with "730314."
- 15- and 15.3-pound boxes of "USDA CHOICE OR HIGHER 100% PURE GROUND BEEF PATTIES" bearing a product number of "437507" or "437521," as well as an eight-digit lot number beginning with "730314," "731013," or "731014."
- 15-pound boxes of "USDA CHOICE OR HIGHER GROUND BEEF CHUCK PATTIES" bearing a product number of "437822," as well as an eight-digit lot number beginning with "731014."

Each box bears the establishment number "Est. 8999" inside the USDA mark of inspection.

Consumers and media with questions about the recall should contact company Quality Assurance Manager Michelle Risius at (507) 529-4759.

E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacterium that can cause bloody diarrhea and dehydration. The very young, seniors and persons with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illness.

Consumers with food safety questions can "Ask Karen," the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at AskKaren.gov. The toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) is available in English and Spanish and can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday. Recorded food safety messages are available 24 hours a day.