

11/2/09

Fairbank Farms_ Class I Recall of Ground Beef

At a Glance: Fairbank Farms, an Ashville, NY, establishment, is recalling approximately 545,699 pounds of fresh ground beef products that may be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7. U.S. Foodservice is NOT affected by this recall at this time.

The Issue: Fairbank Farms produces ground beef for grocery stores in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Brands affected by this recall include Trader Joe's, Price Chopper, Lancaster, Wild Harvest, Shaw's, BJ's, Giant, and Ford Brothers.

E. coli O157:H7 is a bacterium that can cause severe illness, especially in the very young, seniors, or persons with weakened or compromised immune systems. While *E. coli* can be killed by cooking, the USDA does not recommend doing so with any product that potentially is contaminated with *E. coli* because of the threat of cross-contamination.

Am I Impacted? U.S. Foodservice is NOT affected by this recall. We are providing this Fast Facts to alert our customers and employees in case they get questions or may have purchased these ground beef products for home use.

US Foodservice Position: At US Foodservice we take food safety very seriously. We also understand the extreme sensitivity of our customers to food-related health issues and are committed to keeping our customers abreast of the latest developments as fast as we get the information.

What You Can Do:

- Store raw meat products below and away from other foods, especially foods that will not be cooked
- Cook all beef to 155F for at least 15 seconds
- Clean and sanitize cutting boards, utensils, and counters after working with any raw meat product
- Establish and enforce a stringent hand washing program for all food handlers in your establishment
- Train your staff to know what to do when a recall is announced – especially if you are not available
- Anyone who believes they may be ill from *E. coli* should contact their medical provider

Finally, count on U.S. Foodservice to keep you informed, and to keep recalled product out of your establishment.