



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

EHS Circular Letter 2011-46

To: Local Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Certified Food Inspectors

From: Tracey Weeks, Coordinator
Food Protection Program

Date: August 4, 2011

Subject: Ground Turkey Products Recall

Cargill Meat Solutions Corporation, a Springdale, Arkansas establishment, is recalling approximately 36 million pounds of ground turkey products that may be contaminated with a multi-drug resistant strain of *Salmonella* Heidelberg, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today.

This recall follows a July 29, 2011 FSIS Public Health Alert that was initiated due to concerns about illnesses caused by *Salmonella* Heidelberg that may be associated with use and consumption of ground turkey. A total of 79 persons infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Heidelberg have been reported from 26 states between March 1 and August 3, 2011. Among the ill persons with available information, 22 (38%) have been hospitalized and 1 death has been reported. As of this date, no illnesses have been confirmed in Connecticut.

As a result of the epidemiologic and traceback investigations, as well as in-plant findings, FSIS determined that there is a link between the Cargill ground turkey products and this illness outbreak. These products were distributed at the retail level nationwide. At the present time, a full distribution list has not yet been provided and there has been no confirmation that products were distributed to Connecticut. This information is being provided should you receive calls from consumers or food establishments. The Food Protection Program will provide updated information as it becomes available.

The products subject to recall bear the establishment number "P-963" inside the USDA mark of inspection, and include the following:

Ground Turkey Chubs - Use or Freeze by Dates of 2/20/11 through 8/23/11

- 10 lb. chubs of Honeysuckle White Fresh Natural Lean Ground Turkey with Natural Flavorings
- 10 lb. chubs of Unbranded Ground Turkey w/ Natural Flavoring 2 Pack
- 80 oz. (5 lbs.) chubs of Riverside Ground Turkey with Natural Flavoring
- 10 lb. chubs of Natural Lean Ground Turkey with Natural Flavorings
- 16 oz. (1 lb.) chubs of Honeysuckle White 93/7 Fresh Ground Turkey with Natural Flavoring
- 4-1 Pound Packages of Honeysuckle White Ground Turkey with Natural Flavoring Value Pack
- 16 oz. (1 lb.) chubs of Honeysuckle White 85/15 Fresh Ground Turkey
- 48 oz. (3 lb.) chubs of Honeysuckle White 85/15 Fresh Ground Turkey

85% Ground Turkey - Use or Freeze by Dates of 2/20/11 through 8/23/11

- 19.2 oz. (1.2 lb.) trays of Honeysuckle White 85/15 Ground Turkey
- 19.2 oz. (1.2 lb.) trays of Honeysuckle White Taco Seasoned Ground Turkey Colored with Paprika
- 20 oz. (1.25 lb.) trays of Honeysuckle White 85/15 Ground Turkey
- 48.0 oz. (3 lbs.) trays of Honeysuckle White 85/15 Ground Turkey Family Pack
- 16 oz. (1 lb.) trays of Honeysuckle White 85/15 Ground Turkey
- 19.2 oz. (1.2 lbs.) trays of Honeysuckle White Seasoned Italian Style Ground Turkey with Natural Flavorings

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Bus: 860.509.7293 Fax: 860.509.8071

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

93% Ground Turkey - Use or Freeze by Dates of 2/20/11 through 8/23/11

- 19.2 oz. (1.20 lb.) trays of Honeysuckle White 93/7 Lean Ground Turkey
- 48 oz. (3.0 lbs.) trays of Honeysuckle White 93/7 Lean Ground Turkey Family Pack
- 19.2 oz. (1.2 lb.) trays of Fit & Active Lean Ground Turkey 93/07
- 19.2 oz. (1.2 lbs.) trays of Giant Eagle Ground Turkey Fresh & Premium Lean
- 20 oz. (1.25 lb.) trays of Honeysuckle White 93/7 Lean Ground Turkey

Ground Patties

- 16.0 oz. (1 lb.) trays of Honeysuckle White Ground Turkey Patties with "Use by" or "Freeze by" dates of 2/20/11 through 8/23/11
- 16.0 oz. (1 lb.) trays of Shady Brook Farms Ground Turkey Burgers with Natural Flavoring with the following "Use by" or "Freeze by" dates: 07/09/11, 07/10/11, 07/11/11, 07/15/11, 07/16/11, 07/21/11, 07/22/11, 07/24/11, 08/01/11, or 08/04/11

Frozen Ground Turkey - Production Dates of 2/20/11 through 8/2/11

- 16 oz. (1 lb.) chubs of Honeysuckle White Ground Turkey with Natural Flavoring
- 16 oz. (1 lb.) chubs of Spartan Ground Turkey
- 48 oz. (3 lb.) chubs of Honeysuckle White 85/15 Ground Turkey
- 40 lb. Bulk Packed Ground Turkey with Natural Flavoring for Food Service Use Only

Consumers reporting illness should be advised to contact their primary care physician for proper follow-up and treatment. Local health department staff that receive calls from consumers with possible foodborne illness after consumption of this product should follow the usual procedure of completing the 3-page Foodborne Alert form and faxing it to the Food Protection Program within 24 hours at (860) 509-8071.

The Department of Consumer Protection has issued a press release (see attached) and can be contacted at 860-713-6160 for additional information.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, M.S., M.P.H., Chief, Environmental Health Section
Ellen Blaschinski, R.S., M.B.A., Chief, Regulatory Services Branch
William Gerrish, Office of Planning and Communications, DPH