



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) 2009-81

Date: November 4, 2009

Important Safety Recall Notice: Fairbank Farms Announces Voluntary Recall of Fresh Ground Beef Products

Fairbank Farms, a New York manufacturer of ground beef, has announced a voluntary recall of fresh ground beef products that may be contaminated with *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) O157:H7 as the result of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS) determination that there is an association between the recalled fresh ground beef products and reported illnesses.

The recalled fresh ground beef products were sold at BJ's Wholesale Clubs and other retailers. At BJ's these products were sold between September 18th and September 25th, 2009 with "Sell By Dates" of September 25th and September 26th. BJ's locations in the following states were affected by this recall: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

THE PRODUCTS BEING RECALLED (Listed by style numbers)

- 980236 85% beef patties
- 980247 Meat loaf and meatball mix
- 980248 93% lean hamburger
- 980249 93% lean hamburger

THE POTENTIAL SAFETY HAZARD

If a product is consumed that is contaminated with E. coli O157:H7 it can cause serious illness. You should contact your physician immediately if you have consumed the beef product(s) and have any of the following symptoms: abdominal cramping, vomiting and a diarrheal illness, often with bloody stools.

Most healthy adults can recover completely within a week. Young children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems are at the highest risk for developing Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome, which can lead to serious kidney damage and even death.

For more information on E. coli O157:H7, please visit the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov>.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Please check your freezer for the recalled product(s) described above and do not handle any unwrapped raw products. Do not consume any recalled product. Handling the raw beef or attempting to cook it may result in ingestion or transfer of E. coli to other foods or food-preparation surfaces.

For a full refund, members can visit their local BJ's Club. If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Fairbank Farms' toll-free consumer hotline at 1-877-546-0122, daily, between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST. or visit <http://www.fairbankfarms.com>. Consumers can also contact "Ask Karen," the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at AskKaren.gov, the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854), which is available in English and Spanish, Monday – Friday, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST or visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>.